

THE TIMES

No. 65,863

MONDAY APRIL 14 1997

TODAY
10p

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A Titanic dinner party
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17 PAGES of weekend action

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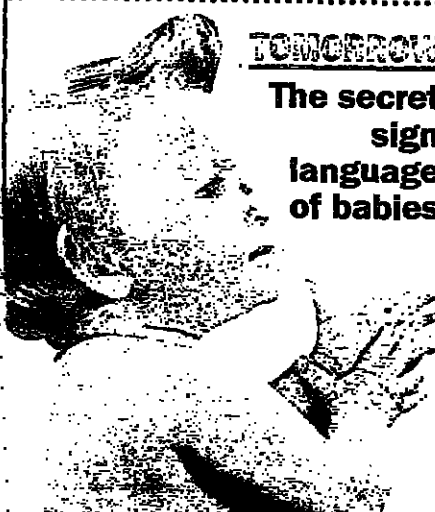


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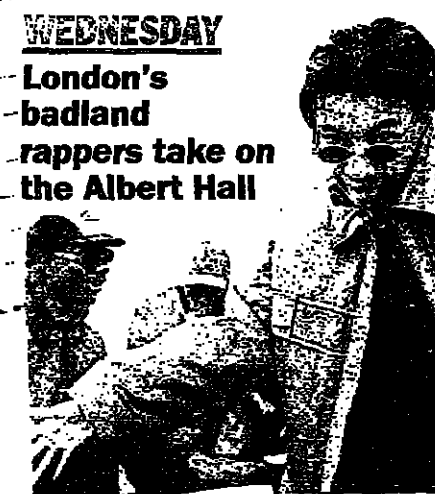
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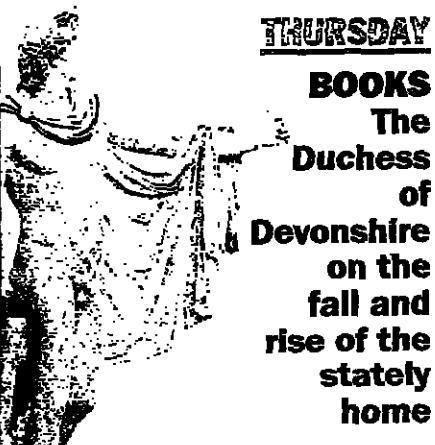
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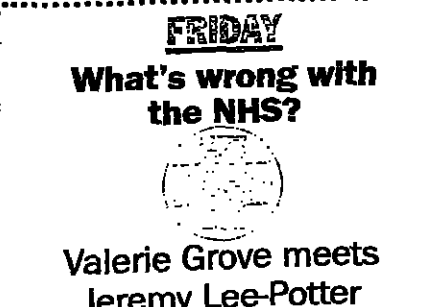
TOMORROW
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WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY
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FRIDAY
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PLUS: WEEKEND CARPZ, WEEKEND MONEY, THE YOUNG TIMES READERS AND TODAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE TO THE DAY

Blair seeks to inject passion and vision

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND JAMES LANDALE

TONY BLAIR yesterday signalled a dramatic shift of gear in the Labour election campaign aimed at injecting "passion, vision and conviction" into a battle that he claims has been marred by negative strategies and "media cynicism".

In what will be seen as a response to the reduction of Labour's lead in the opinion polls and a rash of weekend newspaper headlines alleging "wobblers" in the party's campaign, Mr Blair let it be known yesterday that he intended to take the election by the "scruff of the neck" and "make it come alive".

Senior aides of the Labour leader yesterday attacked the BBC for its coverage of the campaign, claiming that it had been happy to see it turned into a "tit-for-tat slanging match". They added that Mr Blair was keen to take part in the election debate with John Major proposed by *The Times*.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said: "John Prescott has exposed Labour's deceit. Believing that he was speaking in private, Mr Prescott has admitted that a minimum wage would cause higher unemployment," he said. The deputy leader said, however, that he had been referring to the situation five years ago.

Mr Blair, campaigning in Milton Keynes, issued a warning that voters were being turned off by politicians "knocking" each other. He unveiled a series of "positive" posters highlighting the party's pledges on unemployment, crime and education. During a speech in the Midlands today he will try to reinforce the message that "the Tories are negative, we are positive" by setting out Labour's detailed education programme. He will speak of the need to "raise standards rather than tinkering with structures".

Mr Blair will pledge to modernise the comprehensive principle so that it is tailored to the needs of individuals. He will also confirm Labour's plans for 300 new specialist schools to become "beacons of excellence" by linking up with other schools in their local area.

The ferocity of Labour's remarks about the alleged negative campaigning raised speculation at Westminster last night that the party may be finding in its private polling that some of the attacks on Mr Blair have been hitting their target. Mr Blair's aides accused the BBC of "boring" viewers. By following the Tories' negative agenda, Labour said the BBC had limited its coverage to politicians "slugging each other off" in every bulletin.

Mr Blair said: "What this campaign should be about are the things that are really concerning people in this country, not just one set of politicians knocking another set of politicians." The Tories claimed it was clear that Labour campaign strategists had been badly rattled. Dr Mawhinney said Mr Blair was relaunching his campaign for the third time and the Labour leader was "starting to crack up".



"When times are difficult, sir can always pretend he's a Chesterfield supporter"

INSIDE
6 If the details can be sorted out, Tony is keen to do it
The Times brings the leaders' debate back to life Page 11

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Leadership strategists swiftly denied that Mr Blair was "relaunching" the Labour campaign as a result of the Conservatives' success in reducing its lead. However, it was clear that he has ordered a change of strategy to counter the damaging Tory attack on alleged Labour U-turns on privatisation, the unions and devolution. At one point yesterday Mr Blair referred to the need to break through a "news blackout" on positive policies.

It was also reported by Labour sources that Mr Blair intended to "rise above the Tory gutter" from today, and that he would be making more off-the-cuff speeches and taking part in more question-and-answer sessions with voters.

Labour's shift of tactics overshadowed a sustained Tory attack yesterday on John Prescott over remarks in a newspaper interview — hotly disputed by the Labour deputy leader — that the minimum wage would cost jobs in the short-term. Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, described the remarks in *The Sunday Times* as the "defining moment" in the campaign, saying it proved that Labour could not be trusted. Mr Prescott had been quoted as saying that politicians could not tell all the truth all the time.



The Referendum Party faithful at Alexandra Palace — polite and friendly, united by a "single hated enemy"

Battle for Britain all over again

By BEN MACINTYRE

IN a strange amalgam of patriotism and paranoia, history and hysteria, the Referendum Party staged an election rally at Alexandra Palace in London yesterday, which Sir James Goldsmith, its leader, called "more of a jamboree than a conference".

But if the mood was outwardly festive, the rhetoric was more aggressive than anything seen so far in this election campaign. At what organisers said was a crowd of nearly 10,000 people and described by Lord McAlpine as "the largest political rally this country has seen since the war", the call for a fresh war against European domination rose up time and again.

As each of the party's notables took to the podium — Sir James, ecologist David Bellamy, Sir George Gardiner, zoo-keeper John Aspinall, and actor Edward Fox among them — the European Union, or "the German-dominated super State", was depicted as the greatest threat to British sovereignty since, variously, the Spanish Armada, the Normans, Conquest and the Luftwaffe.

The first speaker, Bryan Slater, a solicitor and Party candidate, set the tone in a speech that compared Brussels to the KGB, evoked George Orwell's 1984 and condemned, in turn, Euro-

pean "brainwashing", "snivelling, silky-tongued lawyers" and the craven media.

Thereafter the references to dictatorship, battle, God and sacrifice piled up.

Though I have yet to meet a Referendum Party supporter who is not polite, friendly, and balanced, the faithful took on a different, more disquieting aspect at the rally. Middle-class, middle-England, galvanised by a single, identifiable, hated enemy was not always an attractive spectacle. Jokes about attaching electrodes to Edward Heath, that would not evoke a smirk in the lowest bar, met howls of appreciation.

"We fought off the Spaniards, when we had to, we fought off the French, at their most powerful, when we had to, we twice fought off mighty Germany, when we had to... to allow further erosion of our sovereignty without taking the vital precaution of asking the nation for permission is — in a word — madness, dangerous madness," John Aspinall snarled, looking distinctly dangerous himself.

Sir George Gardiner's theme was identical: "This century a million Britons have given their lives so that our island should remain free... did they die for nothing?... you will never find me selling that birthright for a mess of pottage au feu and saukraut." Edward Fox not only cited

Winston Churchill, but produced an impressive imitation of him. Echoing Sir Winston, Mr Fox grumbled out that, as before, we must "never lessen our vigilance and resolve until an aggressor [has] been conquered and Europe released from tyranny and horror".

For a moment when an excitable, bearded man took the stage and began babbling incomprehensibly and hurling his arms about, I thought that the Referendum Party had allowed one of those dangerous foreigners to put

another view. In fact, it was David Bellamy, who is standing against John Major in Huntingdon, railing against ecological damage being wrought in the name of Europe.

There was no evil for which the Brussels bureaucracy — presented on video to the accompaniment of *The Ride of the Valkyries* — could not be blamed, from preventing an Englishman from selling a bag of apples to fresh legislation on driving tests. When the

Continued on page 2, col 5



Marathon sprint beats McColgan

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

LIZ MCCOLGAN, Britain's premier long-distance runner, was yesterday outstripped over the last five yards of the Flora London Marathon by Joyce Chepchumba — the Kenyan she kept in second place last year — in the closest women's race in the 17-year history of the event.

Although suffering from a stomach upset, McColgan fought her way to the front and led Chepchumba past Buckingham Palace only to be edged out by one second in a hectic finish along the Mall. Nevertheless she achieved a personal best of 2hr 20min 52sec. McColgan, 32, who once competed with a broken kneecap, said

afterwards: "This is the first time I have ever had any stomach trouble in a race. I only drank half of what I usually do."

The men's race was won by Antonio Pinto of Portugal, who set a course record of 2hr 07min 55sec.

More than 29,000 competitors had started the race — a record for any marathon — amid the tightest security yet for the event after a bomb scare caused the postponement of last week's Grand National. About half a million people, including the Prime Minister, lined the route.

The sunny, but not too hot weather produced perfect conditions for the runners; only 150 were treated by hospitals or the St John Ambulance Brigade. But a man in

his forties died of a heart attack — the annual race's fifth such victim.

The runners, many wearing fancy-dress, raised an estimated £10 million for charity. Funrunners included a man dressed as Batman and another as a jester and there was the usual team dressed as a rhino to raise money to help to preserve the endangered animals.

Among the celebrity entries was Jeremy Bates, Britain's former No 1 tennis player, who completed the course in 3hr 47min. He said: "It was probably the worst experience of my life. I hit the wall at 18-20 miles. I was still a long way out and I have never felt so bad."

Marathon report, page 33
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Chesterfield to fight again

Chesterfield just failed to become the first club outside the top two divisions to reach the FA Cup Final, when were held 3-3 by Middlesbrough. Chelsea beat Wimbledon in the other semi-final... Page 25

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BUILT WITHOUT ALL THE STRAIGHT LINES.

Sight of families being forced out reawakens memories of start of Troubles

Catholics flee their homes as loyalists riot in Belfast

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT Roman Catholic families were forced to flee their homes in north Belfast over the weekend after they were ransacked by rioting loyalists. In scenes reminiscent of the early days of the Troubles, when hundreds of families were burnt out of their homes, drunken loyalists smashed doors and ripped out fittings from houses along the Limestone Road on Saturday night.

As the rioters shouted sectarian abuse, parents and young children hurriedly gathered together their belongings before rushing to friends and relatives. Two houses were wrecked and a further six were extensively damaged. Gerard Crossin, who was one of the last Catholics to leave, said: "At one point we went out of the back door and tried to stand there. But that was not safe and so we ran to the front. But there were two men at the front door with cudgels."

Trouble flared on Saturday evening when 200 Protestants and Catholics clashed in Alexandra Park in North Belfast. As gangs threw bottles and hurled abuse, a group of loyalists ran up to the Catholic area and ransacked vulnerable homes.

Police in riot gear and

armed soldiers eventually broke up the rioters and dispersed the loyalists into the Tiger's Bay area. As the loyalists were forced away, a rioter threw a brick through a window, shattering a living room with glass and narrowly missing a ten-month-old baby.

Sinn Féin last night accused loyalists of orchestrating the attacks. Gerry Kelly, the convicted IRA bomber who is standing for Sinn Féin in north Belfast in the election, said: "The Catholic community of north Belfast is fearful that it is going to endure again all of the horrors people experienced last summer in the wake of Drumcree."

The disturbances will heighten tensions throughout Northern Ireland because the sight of Catholic families fleeing their homes strikes a nerve in the nationalist community. One of the main factors which intensified the Troubles in 1969 was the picture of families loading their belongings into lorries from the charred wreckage of their homes.

The rioting highlighted the gulf which has opened up between Catholics and Protestants since the disturbances of last summer. Protestant and Catholic gangs have regularly clashed in Alexandra Park,



Mary Boyd, 75, yesterday after the attack on her home in Belfast. Despite the violence, she refuses to leave

which is in the heart of the hardline north Belfast area where Protestants and Catholics live close to one another.

In July last year, at the height of the disturbances over the Orange parade at Drumcree, Co. Armagh, at least ten Catholic families were forced out of their homes by rioting loyalists in the Torrains area of north Belfast. The area suffered the highest number of deaths during the Troubles because republican and loyalist terrorists often

had little trouble in infiltrating rival areas.

Noel Quigley, a resident who witnessed the disturbances, said that north Belfast faced enormous difficulties in controlling sectarian tensions. He said: "This is an interface area. There is continuous trouble because the two communities live side by side, cheek by jowl. It is a very hard area to control."

A loyalist politician jailed in Scotland for a gun-running plot has been transferred to a

prison in Northern Ireland. Lindsay Robb, a former member of the fringe loyalist Progressive Unionist Party multi-party talks team, was sentenced to ten years for his part in an Ulster Volunteer Force scheme to smuggle guns from Liverpool to Ulster.

Last Wednesday he was switched to Maghaberry Prison in Co. Antrim in what was described by the Prison Service as a temporary move. It is believed Robb, 30, is the first loyalist to be given such a

transfer home. Several leading IRA men have previously been given transfers.

Police seized a Barrett Light 50 rifle and an AK47 rifle in an anti-terrorist operation in the hardline republican area of South Armagh on Friday. The Barrett rifle is believed to be the weapon used in a series of IRA sniper attacks along the border. In the most recent attack Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick was shot in Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, in February.

Sixteen face court after dockers' rally

Sixteen people will appear in court today after violence broke out when a rally in support of sacked dockers was hijacked by the environmental group Reclaim the Streets. They face charges including affray, violent disorder and criminal damage after disturbances in Whitehall and Trafalgar Square in which protesters fought running battles with police. Officers guarding the entrance to Downing Street were pelted with bottles.

A woman, aged 28, has been bailed to return to Waltham police station on May 16 to answer questions in relation to an alleged conspiracy to murder. She was held after a lorry was allegedly driven at speed towards police lines. Three other people detained in connection with the incident in Trafalgar Square have been released without charge. Eight of the 16 detained during the disturbances will appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court. Among the eight appearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court is Arthur Padragon, 42, of Farnborough, who was charged with being in possession of a 3ft broadsword.

Severed-leg boy 'critical'

A boy whose legs were severed by a train was on a life-support machine last night. The condition of Nathan Stevens, who was injured on his ninth birthday, was described as critical but stable. The boy, from Kenfig Hill, near Bridgend, is believed to have tripped and fallen onto the Swansea-London main line while playing with his brother and friends on Friday. British Transport Police and Railtrack are investigating.

Lakeside gets private jail

A site near one of Britain's biggest indoor shopping destinations, the Lakeside centre at Thurrock in Essex, has been chosen by the prison service to build a jail holding at least 800 male offenders (Richard Ford writes). One of six being designed, financed and managed by private industry, the jail is needed to deal with the increase in offenders being jailed in London and the northern Home Counties. The site was formerly a coal-fired power station.

Boy accused of killing

A 14-year-old boy and a man have been charged with manslaughter after the body of George Tripp, 27, an Irish financial controller from Didsbury, was pulled from Rochdale canal on Saturday. The boy from Longsight, Manchester, who has not been named, and Colin McDonald, 26, of Levenshulme, Manchester, will appear before Manchester City Magistrates today. Mr Tripp worked for a law firm in the city.

Parker Bowles's new role

Camilla Parker Bowles, 48, will take her first big step into the limelight today when she is installed as the patron of the National Osteoporosis Society. Her backing for the charity has been seen as the first stage in an attempt to raise her profile after the admission by the Prince of Wales that they were having an affair. Mrs Parker Bowles has already been involved in one public event, in September 1995, when she hosted a party to raise £10,000 for the society.

Beef dressed as lamb

More than four in ten samples of lamb and pork mince contain beef, according to trading standards officers. Many shoppers buy other minced meats because of fears that BSE can be passed to humans who eat beef. Beef used to have nearly the entire market share of mince. The contamination, which was discovered in 43 per cent of samples taken from butchers and shops in nearly 30 local authority areas, breaches the Trade Descriptions Act.

Television blackout

Television viewers in the south and west of Ireland have been deprived of BBC and ITV by a Dublin court ruling against "defector groups" who had been picking up British channels on masts in Ireland and retransmitting them into rural areas for minimal fees for 20 years. Choice is now confined to RTE, the state broadcasting network. The case was brought by MMDS Television which has a licence to charge for distributing the signals.

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CHANGING TIMES

Tories pledge action against 'quota-hopping' trawlers

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A TORY government, if re-elected, will block future constitutional change in the European Union until Spanish and other foreign-owned fishing boats are taken off the British register.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, will also tell his EU colleagues in Luxembourg today that the Government will not implement any cuts agreed in the size of fish catches so

long as any foreign "quota-hoppers" — foreign-owned boats which fly a British flag of convenience — remain in business. EU fisheries ministers will be asked to accept cuts of up to 30 per cent in catches of the most depleted stocks, such as cod and haddock, over the next four years, move that would hit British fishermen particularly hard.

"I will be making quite clear to my fellow ministers that we will not allow the inter-governmental conference to conclude in June until the

issue of quota-hoppers is resolved," Mr Baldry said. "Over 150 boats, mainly owned by Spanish and Dutch interests, are now on our register and account for 26 per cent of the British fleet by tonnage. They fish against our quota and land their catch in their own ports, making no contribution to our economy at all."

Mr Baldry accepted that an EU agreement to reduce fish catches could be adopted by qualified majority voting today, overriding Britain's wishes. But he said this would not

matter if quota-hoppers were subsequently removed from the register, since that alone would reduce the size of the British fleet by a quarter. John Major is expected to reaffirm that there can be no agreement at the inter-governmental conference unless the issue is resolved when he meets fishermen on the campaign trail today.

Mr Baldry added: "We cannot just confiscate the legitimately acquired licences of these foreign-owned boats, so there will have to be discussion at

the next stage of the IGC about how these vessels are going to be bought out."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said in a statement yesterday: "The IGC will not come to a successful conclusion unless we are satisfied that — among our other objectives — the problem of quota hopping is resolved satisfactorily."

A previous attempt by the British government to end the system was declared illegal by the European Court of Justice.

£100m scheme to reboot missiles

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of miniaturised computers inside missiles and other modern weapon systems are having to be reprogrammed by the Ministry of Defence to overcome problems relating to the millennium date-change.

All the computers have to be altered, at an estimated cost of £100 million, to ensure they can recognise the year 2000. The date-change has already been called the biggest man-made disaster to hit the information technology industry but the scale of the problem facing the MoD is just beginning to emerge.

The MoD has 32 months and 17 days to prevent the Armed Services' weapon systems, from the Royal Navy's Trident missiles to the RAF's Paveway guided bombs, from becoming obsolete.

The correct date is a vital element of the data fed into all the advanced computerised weapon systems. MoD officials

said that unless the computers recognised 2000, none of the missiles would work. "The systems would just crash," one MoD official said.

Like other computers, the MoD's systems have been developed to use only two digits for the year. The year 1997 is represented by the digits 97. When the new millennium begins, computers will focus as usual on the last two digits, 00 and many will interpret that as 1900, rather than 2000.

Officials said computers would think that all dates past December 1999 were 100 years ago. MoD staff have been warned that unless the computers are fixed or replaced, they will fail either by rejecting legitimate entries or by computing erroneous results, or they will just not run at all. Every owner of a computer will face the same problem.

Mind and Matter, page 15

Battle for Britain

Continued from page 1
PA system briefly died, we knew who to blame: "Are you Brussels technicians?" demanded Robin Page, farmer, broadcaster and yesterday's chief rabble-rouser.

If German dictatorship was the main theme, then other unseen ghosts also hovered over the assembly: Sir Laurens Van Der Post, the late writer, thinker and Conservative who, it was asserted, would have supported the party had he lived. More

signally, there was Margaret Thatcher, "cast aside" by her own party, in the words of Lord McAlpine.

Even the official song, which ought to have been hilarious, was grumpy: "A thousand years of sovereign rule — offered up on behalf of all — no questions asked nor permission sought — without a word or second thought." "Ooh, ooh, ooh," they sang, "let the people decide."

By contrast, Sir James's address appeared measured and soft-voiced, with only a few references to "the authoritarian yoke of an unelected Brussels bureaucracy". At the end of his speech, the crowd seemed subdued, almost disappointed, as Sir James left to the strains of the theme tune from *The Mission*.

As the faithful streamed out waving purple flags and enthused by purple rhetoric, I found myself wondering at the choice of the party's official colour. Surely this was not Burgundy? But if one half-closed the eyes, the throng reflected the unmistakable shade of bloodshot.



Goldsmith: speech left the crowd subdued

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It was instinct, says ex-policeman

Britons jump on grenade blast to protect wives

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A GRENADE thrown into a VIP restaurant seemed certain to cause massive injury until two Britons both took a split-second decision to act as a human shield against the blast. John Bown and Blair Davies dived forward to protect their wives.

Last night the two former police officers were being treated for serious shrapnel wounds as the authorities counted the cost of a series of terrorist attacks at targets in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The injuries at the Blue Tops restaurant are thought to have been limited because of the courage of the two men.

Speaking from their hospital beds, they described how they saw the grenade being thrown near their table. Mr Bown said: "We instinctively threw ourselves at the explosive to protect our wives from serious injuries." Mr Davies added: "Our injuries are painful, but not life-threatening. Thank God our wives escaped lightly."

They are in Ethiopia working for a private consultancy contracted by the Overseas Development Administration to train the Ethiopian police force. They were among three British couples sitting in the main dining area in the restaurant opposite the National Museum.

Their wives escaped with minor injuries. Another former police officer suffered cuts from flying glass, and his girlfriend is thought to have escaped serious injury. Two Jamaicans nearby were unhurt, but a second grenade wounded a French couple.

In another attack a few minutes earlier, a woman was killed and 34 people were injured when a grenade was thrown through a window at the Tigre hotel in the central piazza. A third blast was reported in the Jimma Road area of the city.

The Blue Tops, an Italian restaurant on the same street as the official palace of the

Ethiopian Prime Minister and the US embassy, is thought to have been a target for the anti-government attack because it is a favoured eating place for diplomats, tourists and wealthy Ethiopians.

Luigi Ferrari, the manager of Blue Tops, said that three men had entered at about 7.40pm. After a brief conversation with a waitress, they threw two grenades. He said: "I believe the French lady was the most seriously hurt and lost one eye from the shrapnel."

About 500 Britons live in the Ethiopian capital, working in business, foreign aid or at the British Embassy. They had been advised to be vigilant, although there had been no incidents in the city in the last few months.

The former British police officers were part of a

Their wives were treated at the embassy clinic. All were said to be in a state of shock but were not suffering from life-threatening wounds.

Mrs Napthen added: "This is the first incident for a while and we have had to advise all British nationals here to be extra careful. The attacks seem to be focused on hotel lobbies and restaurants which are frequented by foreigners and we are advising people to keep away from these places."

The owners of the Tigre Hotel are from the northeastern region of Tigre where the prime minister, Meles Zenawi, Meles was also born. After the civil war ended, the former rebel group, the Tigre Liberation Front, joined with other opposition organisations to form the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front which overthrew the regime of the dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, in May 1991.

In January last year, three people were killed and about 20 others were wounded when a bomb exploded in the luxury Ghion hotel in Addis Ababa. An ethnic Somali Muslim extremist group, Al-Itihad Al-Islami, which is fighting for the secession of southeastern Ethiopia's Ogaden region, claimed responsibility.

The following month, a bomb exploded in the Ras Hotel in the northeastern city of Dire Dawa, killed one person and injured four others. In July last year, Abdul Medjid Hussein, the Transport Minister and an ethnic Somali from Ogaden, was shot and wounded as he arrived at his office in Addis Ababa.

No group immediately admitted responsibility for Saturday's grenade attacks.

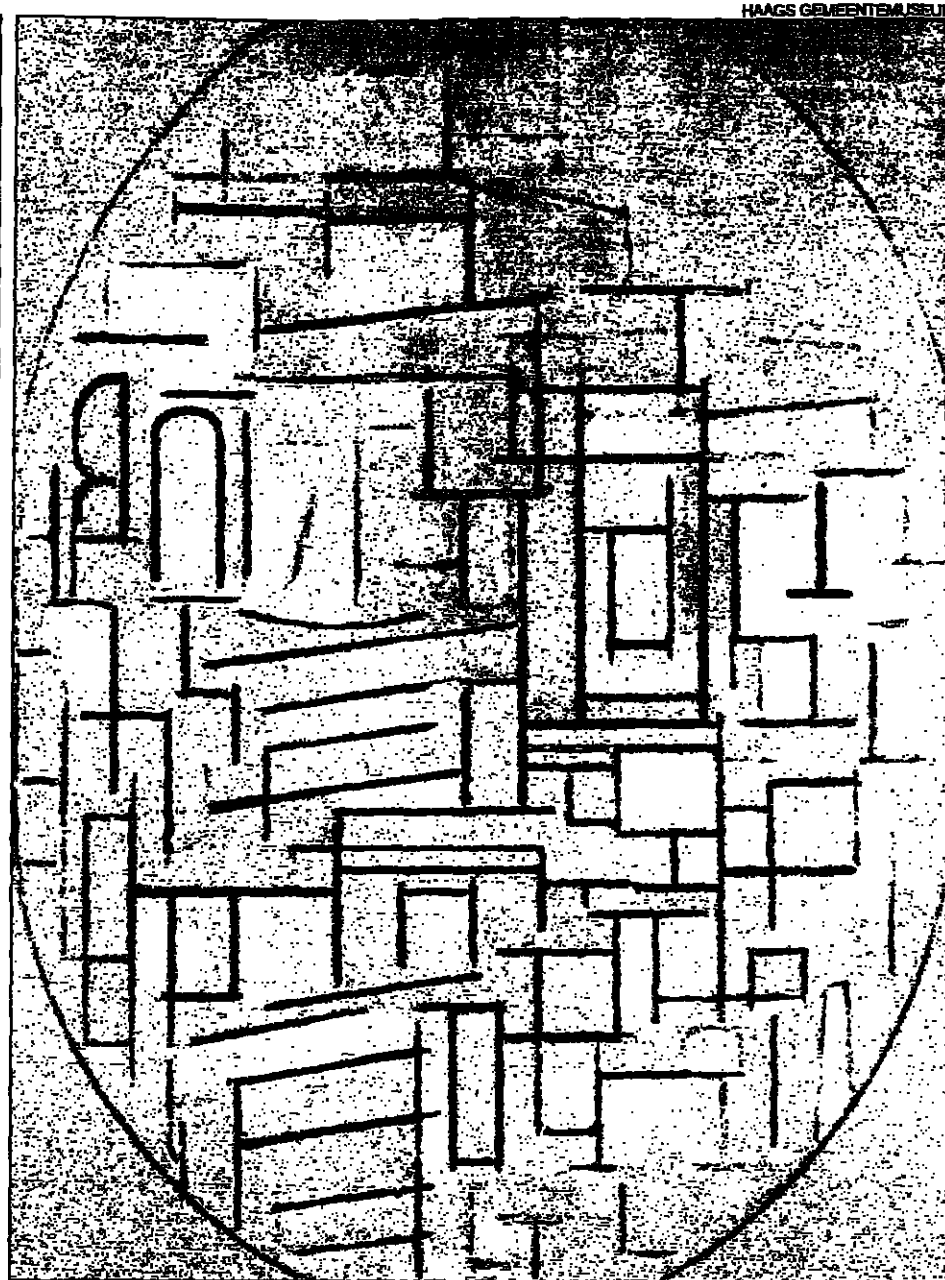
The two former policemen were taken to the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, where a spokeswoman last night said they were both sleeping. She added: "There is no problem."



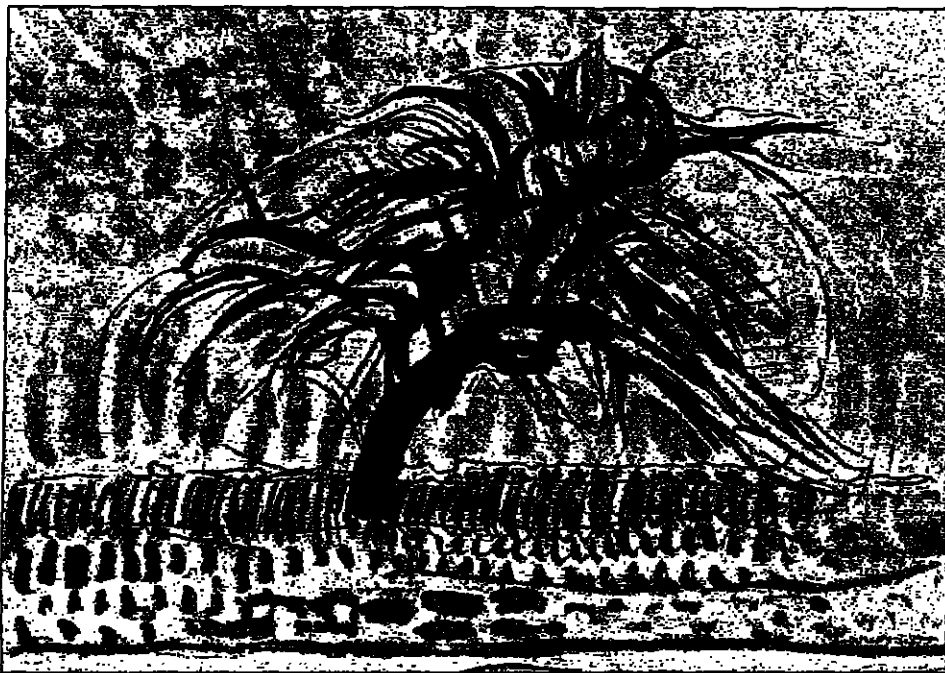
£4.9 million contract agreed between the ODA and the Ethiopian Government to help "civilianise" the local police force. A spokesman for the ODA said that after the civil war there were only paramilitary forces, and Britain was asked to provide training and expertise to turn them into a civilian police force.

The contract is due to end in the summer. He added: "The former police officers have been instructed on everything from traffic control to forensic policing."

Florence Napthen, acting consul at the British Embassy, said that the two British men were in a stable condition.



Oval Composition, 1914. The pictures were chosen by the artist Bridget Riley



Blue Tree, 1908-9, one of a series of works on the theme by the Dutch painter

Tate to exhibit works by abstract pioneer

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Tate Gallery has been given a rare opportunity to show more than 60 works by the Dutch painter Piet Mondrian, one of the most important figures in the development of abstract art. The pictures will be on loan from the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague, a gallery that rarely lends works but is closing for renovation.

The exhibition, which opens in July, will be organised by Bridget Riley, one of Britain's leading contemporary artists and a pioneer of Op art. Mondrian (1872-1944), whose work has been described as one of the purest manifestations of abstraction, has long been an inspiration for her work.

Simon Wilson, the Tate's curator of interpretation, said: "The display will provide the first opportunity for several decades to see a selection of Mondrian's paintings in Britain."

He said the exhibition would begin with Mondrian's naturalistic, atmospheric river scenes, moving to images inspired by Van Gogh, Seurat and the Fauves, then to images reflecting his discovery of Cubism and to his best-known compositions in which vertical and horizontal lines form grids.

He said Riley was "an exceptionally intelligent and articulate artist, with a kind of outward-lookingness that makes her a good curator". He added: "It will be fascinating to see a show that's been selected by an artist like Riley. Mondrian paints landscapes with intense colour. Dutch windmills in hot colours that are strange, haunting things. Then he goes to Paris and gets Cubism. Immediately, he begins to make abstract Cubism. He paints a whole series of trees but doesn't go fully abstract until 1920. Another series, of the sea, reduces everything to his characteristic cross-crossing. What is so marvellous is you can see how the most abstract art in the early 20th century comes straight out of landscape painting."

Classical heroes put their heads on the block

BY PHILIP HOWARD

SEX and violence have far older literary roots than Quentin Tarantino or the film *Crash*. The annual meeting of the Classical Association at Royal Holloway College, University of London, analysed them in depth yesterday.

Joseph Reed, of Ohio State University, read a paper on the erotics of violent death in the *Aeneid*. You may have thought that Virgil's epic was all about pious Aeneas, the destiny of Rome and the foundations of western civilisation. Wrong.

Look again at the sensual descriptions of dead and dying warriors with quivering limbs and fluttering breath. And read the amatory and almost necrophilic attention which works against the stiff upper lip of the rest of the poem.

Meanwhile, Fiona McHardy of Exeter University examined head-hunting and mutilation in ancient Greece. We are told that Achilles and the other heroes in Homer and the first tragedies collected the armour of their defeated enemies for booty and glory. Ms McHardy suggests that they also collected heads and other body parts, but classical versions of the heroic past tidied up their practice.

An enemy's head is a trophy of honour like an Indian scalp. It is the ultimate humiliation of the enemy. Unlike a nose, ear or penis, it is proof that the enemy really is dead, and cannot jump up again and take your head in revenge. The topknot worn by fighters in the Balkans in living memory made it easier for one's friends to carry away one's head before it was taken as a trophy by the enemy.

Ms McHardy suggests that the replacement of tyrants by democratic city-states in Greece changed the military code. In this new world citizens fought side by side in a scrum. They had to stand or fall together. If they broke ranks for individual combat or head-hunting they lost the battle. So head-hunting came to be seen as a barbarian practice as well as a barbaric one.

Mourners walk out of church service

BY DENNIS NEWSON

MOURNERS at a memorial service for those who died in an airport fire, including a British soldier, were reduced to tears when actors mimed the victim's death agonies.

The show led to a walkout from the church by the families of the 16 victims of the blaze at Düsseldorf airport a year ago.

The parents of Corporal Martin Smith, 22, from Tamworth, Staffordshire, said they had expected a dignified service. They had joined 50 other mourners from all over Europe for the ceremony in the Kreuz Church near the airport. Part way through, an amateur theatrical group attached to the church began to mime the tragedy. Recreating how the victims were overcome by smoke, the actors clutched their throats before falling to the floor next to 16 empty stalls with 16 lighted

candles. At that point a German woman whose son had been killed stood up and began to scream and sob violently. One elderly woman had to be treated for shock.

One of two priests conducting the ceremony appealed for calm and tried to apologise for the performance. About 30 of the congregation were so shaken and angry at what they had seen that they walked out.

Hans-Joachim Peters, an airport director, admitted the mime act was a serious mistake: "If I had known it was going to take place I would have stopped it. It was inappropriate," he said.

Corporal Smith, serving with the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards, was travelling back to Britain on leave. The blaze was caused by sparks from a welder's equipment.

Anorexia is linked to brain deficiency

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ANOREXIA has been linked to an abnormality in the brain. A team of doctors has discovered that 16 out of 18 anorexic children studied had reduced blood flow in the part of the brain that governs visual perception, appetite and sense of fullness.

The researchers at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, used new scanning techniques. This is the first time that a physical cause has been found for anorexia nervosa. The findings will reassure many parents who fear that they are to blame for their children's eating disorders.

Bryan Lask, a consultant psychiatrist who studied sufferers as young as seven, said that a deficiency in the anterior temporal lobes, which interpret vision, would explain why anorexics see themselves as fat when they are thin. But people

with the brain defect would need other triggers to develop anorexia.

They would probably live in a society that promoted thinness, would have a perfectionist personality and would be under stress, he said. The illness usually happened during puberty.

Dr Lask said that once the cause of the physical abnormality could be found, pharmaceutical companies would be able to look for the first medical cure for anorexia. Sufferers have to rely on advice, support and psychological help.

Samantha Kendall, 29, from Birmingham, has lost one and a half stone in the past month and weighs six stone as she approaches the third anniversary of the death of her twin sister Michaela, who also suffered from anorexia.

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Duchess launches £100,000-a-year column with grave reflections

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Duchess of York begins her career as a newspaper columnist tomorrow with a "personal essay", inspired by the film version of *Evita*, about a visit to her stepfather's grave in Argentina.

Her weekly 650-word columns will be distributed by the New York Times syndicate alongside the musings of the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and lifestyle guru Martha Stewart.

The Duchess's column has been sold to newspapers in the United States, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Portugal, Mexico, Chile and Italy. Three rival British publications were still vying at the weekend for the rights to print the Duchess's words, which will include the occasional advice column entitled "Ask the Duchess".

The Duchess is collaborating in the writing with Jeff

Duchess's first article is inspired by the film *Evita*

Coplon, the ghost writer of her autobiography, *My Story*. The pair have already submitted the first five columns.

"They cover a variety of subjects, from issues of importance to women and personal reflections and the plight of children," Jeffrey Schneider, the Duchess's spokesman in

New York, said. "They will not in any way, shape or form be a Royal Watch," he said. "The Duchess will also respond to questions from readers but it's not like an agony aunt."

The Duchess found the inspiration for her first column at the premiere of Madonna's film version of *Evita*. In the film, the Duchess noticed the small Argentinian town of Chivilcoy, a bus stop on the way from Buenos Aires to her mother's ranch in the south of the country.

The scene triggered reflections about a visit to the grave of her mother's polo-playing second husband, the Argentinian Hector Barrantes, who died in 1990. John Stickney, a marketing executive at the syndication service, said: "It's quite deftly turned. I think it's moving, actually, and, in a couple of places, funny."

Mr Stickney said that because the Duchess travelled so much, Mr Coplon's Brooklyn home served as "mission

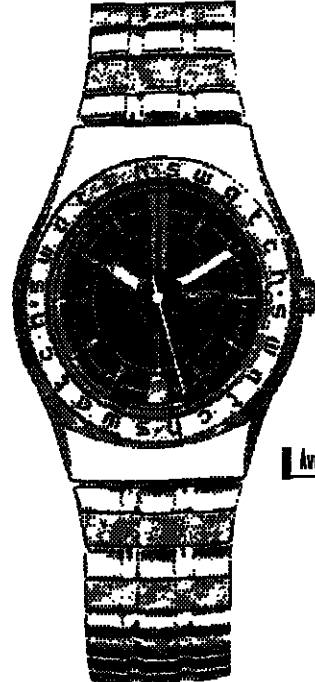
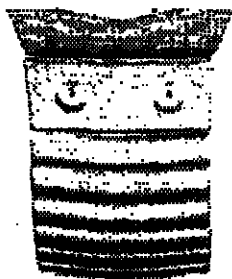
control" for the column. But he insisted that the Duchess was closely involved. "As far as celebrity columns go, the Duchess is deeply engaged," he said. "There are things in this that cannot come from a collaborator. The Duchess is a great story teller."

The Duchess reportedly received about £100,000 for her first year on Grub Street, much less than she makes in advertising campaigns. However, relatively few American newspapers are reported to have picked up the column. One New York columnist blamed the lack of American interest on the fact that the Duchess was considered to be the "British equivalent of 'Trailer Trash'."

But the Duchess's representatives express satisfaction with the deals struck with major regional newspapers such as the *Denver Post* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "We want to get beyond the celebrity factor. I am in this for the long haul," Mr Stickney said.



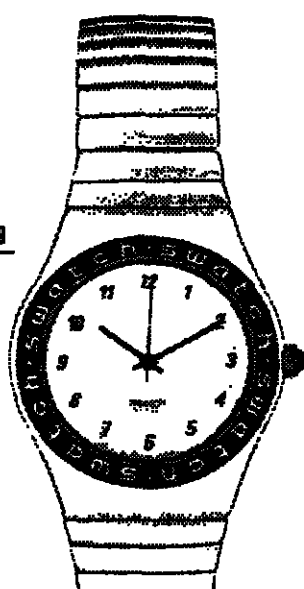
Secret Agent, chrono, £75.00



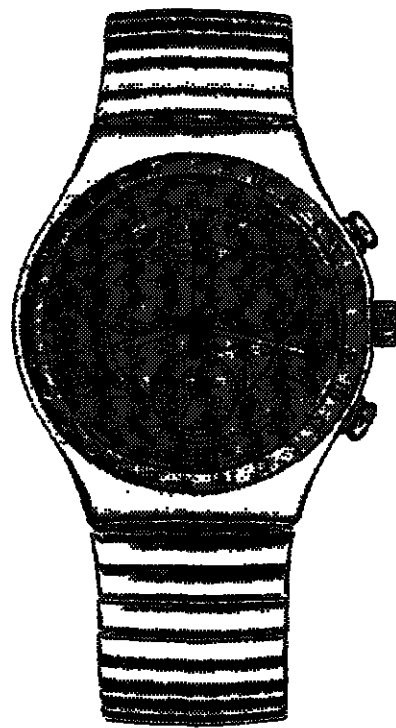
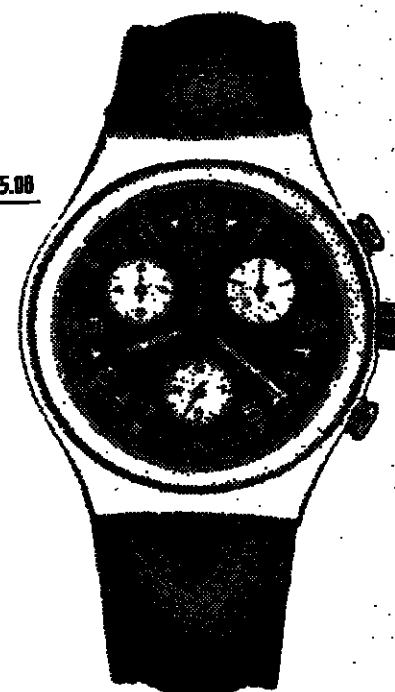
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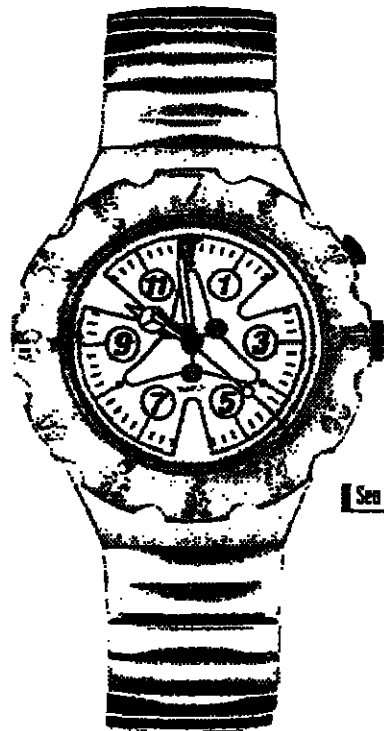
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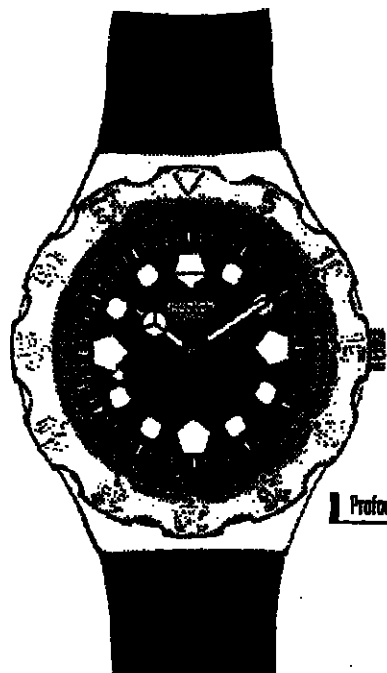
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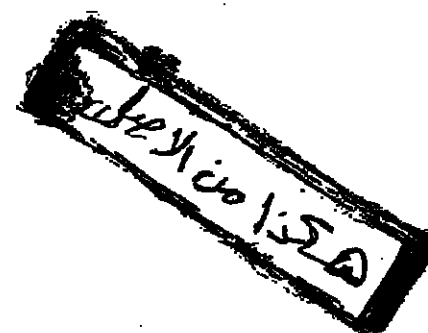
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Carey says Church must not refuse to baptise outsiders

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS who do not attend church should not be prevented from bringing children for baptism, the Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday.

Recalling his own baptism, Dr George Carey paid tribute to the generosity of the East End vicar who welcomed his parents despite the fact that they were not regular members of the congregation. He issued a plea for Church of England members not to allow doctrine to create a barrier but to offer a warm welcome to outsiders.

Preaching at Poole last night during a three-day visit to the Salisbury diocese, Dr Carey said the Church was surprisingly healthy and he could see no signs of it dying. But he added: "Admittedly, things are not perfect."

Many congregations were increasing and many parishes had exciting schemes for visiting and pastoral care. "Yet something still blocks the message from reaching a generation that is hungry spiritually," he said.

Coming as I do from a family without a churchgoing background, let me say with sadness that it is sometimes

Churches should move the times of services to fit around football matches, the Bishop of Jarrow said yesterday. On one of the busiest Sundays of the football season, the Right Reverend Alan Smithson said: "The Church wants to encourage people to do a broader variety of things in their lives and we should use more imagination in setting times for services. I know lots of younger people prefer services later in the day, say from 6pm or at 9pm. I don't want people to have to choose between football and church. You can see a pattern in attendances when football is on."

we who get in the way. "Clergy obstructed the Christian message by failing to live the faith as they should, he said.

"But congregations too can get in the way. If they reduce the message of the Kingdom of God to something that focuses on the concerns of the local church, the Christmas bazaar, the church council meetings, the flower rota, the organist's playing and so on.

"If we create barriers, the Church can become irrele-

vant. It somehow hangs about on the fringes of social life, not quite dead and, indeed, not appearing to be dead, but somehow not alive either."

Examples were inadequate church noticeboards. Dr Carey, who is running a competition to find the three best noticeboards in his Canterbury diocese, with winners to be announced in June, added: "Few things are more off-putting than to read a series of motheaten bits of paper describing events that took place some time ago."

Preaching yesterday morning at Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, he said worshippers should not have to help themselves from a stack of books when they turned up to church but should be given a warm welcome by sidesmen or women. "Don't make the finer points of doctrine a reason for closing doors on people whose understanding of the faith may be woefully inadequate."

He urged churches to set measurable goals. Admitting that this was alien to Church of England culture, he said it was still feasible to set such goals. Examples were to keep note of increasing numbers, new members, young people and the numbers volunteering to serve in different forms of ministry.

"The Church is a spiritual body whose main aim is to direct people to God," he said. In the first of his three sermons, at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday, "We are not alternative social agencies, we are not competing political parties, we are not an alternative leisure club."

Dr Carey was speaking just two months after the latest figures, covering 1994-95, showed the biggest fall in attendances in the Church of England for two decades. The figures were particularly unsettling because they came midway through the decade of evangelism, when the Church was hoping to reverse its postwar decline.

The decline is to be tackled anew by Springboard, the evangelism initiative of Dr Carey and the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, which has been reformed and enlarged five years after its launch in 1992. The Right Rev Michael Marshall, who led Springboard with Canon Michael Green, is to take a lesser role. Canon Green will remain involved, but has officially retired.

The original team of four has been expanded to 35 and Springboard aims to have completed conferences, evangelism courses and missions in most, if not all, of the 43 dioceses by 2000.

Letters, page 21



Aiming to be winners: pupils rehearse their competition play about the year when their school was labelled the worst in Britain

Ridings pupils turn their crisis into a drama

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

TEENAGERS will tonight give their own version of the events last autumn that led to their school being labelled the worst in Britain.

The 34 pupils from the Ridings School, in Halifax, will "set the record straight" in an eight-minute stage presentation as part of a performing arts competition against five other schools from the West Yorkshire area, competing for a place in the northern final. In the latest version of events

leading to the temporary closure of the Ridings and its subsequent identification as a failing school, the press are the main villains, although there is a conflict between good and bad pupils. Journalists are seen offering money to children for pictures and stories, and sensational headlines are paraded on placards.

The early, chaotic scenes are set to Chris Rea's record, *The Road to Hell*. Teachers are then shown bringing the pupils together and even the journalists are celebrating the school's recovery in positive headlines shown at the

end of the performance, to the strains of Labi Siffre's *Something Inside So Strong*.

Ian Calvert, the head of English at the Ridings, was supervising rehearsals at the school yesterday. He said that the pupils had decided to enter the competition because they wanted to set the record straight about their school: "A term ago, we couldn't have considered doing something like this but now there is a bit of daylight. This is another step forward."

The competition, which has an anti-drugs message, was adapted from an

Australian contest by Chief Inspector Mark Pontin of Hampshire Police.

He said: "The message of the Ridings presentation is that they had a bad situation there and the attention of the press made it worse. Many of the kids in the school feel that they were misrepresented and they were made to suffer when they didn't deserve it."

The heats of the Pulse Rock Challenge take place at St George's Concert Hall, Bradford, this evening. The Northern Grand Final is at the same venue tomorrow.

St Paul's challenged over woman priest

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE appointment of a woman priest at St Paul's Cathedral will be challenged in the High Court. The Rev Paul Williamson, an Anglo-Catholic, is seeking a judicial review of the decision to appoint Lucy Winkett, 29, as minor canon, because he believes that only men are entitled to fill the post.

Her role has already caused a split among the clergy at the cathedral. Canon John Halliburton, the Chancellor of St Paul's, announced that he did not recognise her as a priest and would not attend any

service where she was officiating.

Mr Williamson, 47, vicar of St George's in Hanworth, southwest London, told *Sunday* on BBC Radio 4: "The appointment of a woman as canon at St Paul's is simply not possible because the statutes state quite clearly 'clergyman' and 'he' throughout from the time of Richard II."

He said the Church of England was "rent asunder by what I can only in charity describe as a loony liberal lot in charge at the moment, who are hellbent on spoiling the national Church."

Miss Winkett, who is due to begin her new job in September, said that senior clergy at St Paul's were willing to fight the court challenge. "They have engaged a solicitor, so it is going to go ahead. I suppose, but I am not going to make any comment about it. It will just go through the courts as normal," she said.

Mr Williamson has brought 12 court cases challenging women in the priesthood, including one that accused the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, of treason and heresy.



Winkett is claimed to break historic statute

Emigrants pushing great apes to extinction

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ILLEGAL hunting to supply meat to restaurants from Nairobi to Brussels is pushing the great apes towards extinction, wildlife experts said yesterday.

Across Africa and Asia, the last homes of the chimpanzee, the gorilla and the orang-utan, commercial hunting in defiance of national laws and international conservation agreements is reaching crisis

point. Elizabeth Kern, a species policy officer for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and co-author of a report into the crisis, said: "Hunting is escalating dramatically."

She said that part of the problem was the drifting of people away from their native, rural, lands to urban areas in Africa, Asia and Europe.

"These people ate the wildlife in the rural areas and, when they move, carry on the practice. In places such as

Paris and Brussels, where there are people who have emigrated from African countries such as Zaire and the Congo, they also want to carry on eating wildlife."

She said the damage was being accelerated by the arrival of multinational logging companies. Studies carried out by bodies including American government agricultural agencies, universities, the WWF and the International Primate Protection League have found that in scores of

countries, timber-firm employees are becoming game meat dealers.

Ms Kern said that in 1992 Belgian customs and wildlife investigators seized frozen primate meat destined for restaurants.

The report, *Great Apes in the Wild: Wanted Alive*, confirms that the mountain gorillas of Zaire, Uganda and Rwanda are the great apes most at risk, with only 620 animals left.

Under the Convention on

the International Trade in Endangered Species, to which Britain is a signatory, trade in meat and parts of great apes is either banned or strictly controlled. The WWF is calling for tougher action to enforce these rules.

Emergency water supplies are being pumped into an East Anglian fen to try to save Britain's rarest spider from the drought. The great raft spider survives only in Redgrave, Norfolk, and Pevensey, East Sussex.

Cathedral backs arms sponsorship for concert

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ST PAUL'S Cathedral has defended its decision to allow a major American arms company to sponsor a concert marking the centenary of its choir in July.

Lockheed Martin, which manufactures the F117 Stealth fighter, which saw service in the 1991 Gulf War, has paid £15,000 for the performance of Handel's *Musica for the Royal Fireworks*, and will provide corporate hospitality for a number of British companies including British Aerospace and GEC. Lockheed exports its military products around the world, including to Britain and the Middle East.

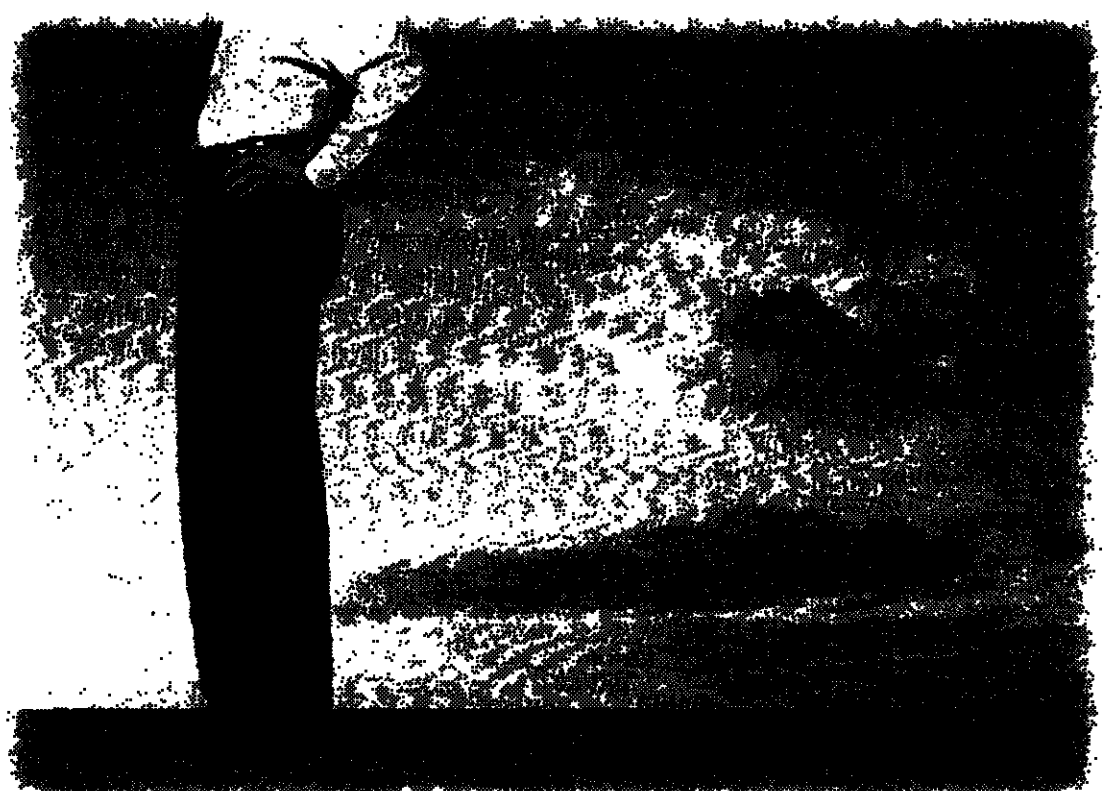
The concert will be held in the cathedral on July 8. Canon John Halliburton, who chaired the concert committee meeting that approved the sponsorship, said: "The matter was really never debated. If a firm offered money it really did not occur to us to inquire where it came from."

Mr Halliburton said Lockheed Martin was not involved "in selling arms to revolutionary governments like the one in Rwanda but to countries which need to defend themselves," he said.

"Saudi Arabia doesn't use these arms to conduct their regime. There is corruption in all arms trading but so far as I can tell from my investigations into Lockheed Martin, that is not the case with them," he added.

However, the anti-arms pressure group, the Campaign Against Arms Trade, condemned the decision. Rachel Harford, of the pressure group, said: "The canon may feel it has nothing to do with the Church but many people in developing countries will feel differently. The Church should be taking a lead on these issues. The decision to hold this event lends tacit approval to arms exporting companies."

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Woman Lawyer conference

Woolf proposes fast track to judicial equality

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FAST-TRACK system to increase the number of women judges has been suggested by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls.

He told a meeting of women lawyers that the judicial appointments process did not intentionally work against women. But he said: "We must look to see whether we can't have a fast track to let them catch up if they (women) have taken time off their careers."

The same should apply to men, he said, who had taken off time to look after children "perhaps because their wife has left or their partner thinks her career is more important than his".

Judges were keen to see the face of the judiciary change so that it was "not as biased in appearance as it is at present". Only seven of the 96 High Court judges are women and there is only one Lord Justice of Appeal from a total of 35. The 12 law lords are all men.

Lord Woolf, 63, said that when the next Master of the Rolls was appointed he would like to think that there would be more women and black candidates for the post. "When I retire I hope there is not only a possible woman candidate but also black candidates. I will do what I can to bring that about."

Lord Woolf strongly backed the present judicial selection system, saying it produced



Woolf said male bias was not intentional



Kennedy: award for lifetime achievement

top-quality judges. Any reform must not jettison the good aspects of the system with the bad.

There had already been reforms that should remove imbalance, he said, and "inev-

itably the numbers (of women) would go up in leaps and bounds". The system could, however, be made more "appropriate and friendly". One option would be to have more lay people on the panels that draw up the shortlists for appointments.

Lord Woolf, the most senior civil judge in England and Wales, was addressing 300 solicitors and barristers at the Woman Lawyer conference in London. The one-day event was organised by the Bar and the Law Society and was sponsored by *The Times*.

Robert Owen, QC, chairman of the Bar, gave details of new spotchecks carried out on chambers to ensure that they were complying with the Bar's equality code. He said that discriminatory barriers were being broken down. In October 1992 there were 7,272 barristers in private practice — 5,891 men and 1,420 women. In October 1996 the total was 8,935 — 6,820 men and 2,115 women. "Over those four years the Bar increased by 22.88 per cent, the number of male barristers increased by 16.56 per cent and the number of women barristers by 49 per cent," Mr Owen said. In 1992, women made up 19.5 per cent of the Bar in private practice against just under 24 per cent in 1996.

The most up-to-date figures for applications for pupillage (trainee places in chambers) showed that 60 per cent were from men, 40 per cent from women: 59 per cent of the offers of trainee places went to men and 41 per cent to women.

Lord Woolf echoed a recent suggestion by Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, that more use might be made of retired solicitors in judicial posts. "I believe they would welcome their involvement in all sorts of activities on a structured basis and would do so at salaries disproportionately low because of the satisfaction the work would give them."

Helena Kennedy, QC, the radical barrister and writer, and Dame Mary Arden, the High Court judge and chairman of the Law Commission, received *Times* Lifetime Achievement in the Law awards at the conference.

The Woman of Achievement award went to Janet Gwyther, an employment law partner at Simmons & Simmons. The group award for the law firm, chambers or legal department contributing most to equal opportunities was won by the chambers at 1 Pump Court, Temple (see *Law* tomorrow).



Princess Margaret: Barrie put phrases she used at her third birthday party in a play

The little princess who tried to rival Peter Pan

By Alan Hamilton

WHEN Sir James Barrie died in 1937, he bequeathed the royalties from *Peter Pan* to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Less well known is the fact that he offered a cut of a far less successful work to Princess Margaret — and while the hospital has benefited by hundreds of thousands of pounds, the Princess's takings amount to just 14d (6p).

Her partnership, at the age of seven, with the Scottish author has come to light after her agreement to "unveil a plaque on May 1 at the Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens, the eighty-fifth anniversary of its first appearance in the Royal Park."

The playwright sat next to her at her third birthday party and subsequently wrote that when she noticed he apparently envied one of her presents, she "immediately placed it between us with the words, 'It is yours and mine'." After the party the Princess overheard someone talk of Barrie and remarked: "I know that man. He is my greatest friend and I am his



J.M. Barrie and the mock-solemn contract in which he agreed to pay the Princess 1d per performance

greatest friend." Barrie incorporated the phrases in his last play, *The Boy David*, and when he next met the Princess he agreed that, as a collaborator in the production, she would receive a penny for each performance.

The play closed after a short run and Barrie assumed the Princess had forgotten about his promise. Not so. In 1937 her father, George VI wrote Barrie a playful reminder that, if he did not pay up, he

would hear from his solicitors. Barrie drew up a mock-solemn formal indenture to pay, which he and the Princess signed. It still exists in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle.

It was the last thing Barrie wrote. Three days before his appointment at Buckingham Palace to discharge his debt with a canvas bag of newly minted pennies, Barrie fell seriously ill. He died ten days later, on June 19, 1937.

Airport launches offensive against protesters

By Harvey Elliott
AIR CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER airport, voted the second best airport in the world after Singapore by 55,000 travellers last week, has launched a campaign to win support for its planned second runway.

Thousands of information packs have been delivered detailing the £17 million that developers say will be spent on improving the environment, rather than wrecking it as protesters claim. Every candidate in the general election will receive a copy.

Officials claim that 35 hectares of woodland will be planted compared with the six that will be lost to construction, and that 24 kilometres of hedgerow will be planted or restored. Wildlife such as badgers, bats, great crested newts and kingfishers will be resettled in habitats cultivated to help them to flourish. More than 90 new or restored ponds will support amphibians and plants; a weir on the nearby river will be removed to allow fish to migrate and ancient woodland will be moved, they say.

Local wildlife groups are becoming increasingly angry at the behaviour of protesters and say their tunnels are damaging woodland and grassland. The Cheshire Wildlife Trust said that the protesters' camps were sited in areas that they were trying to save.

The £172 million two-mile runway was approved after a 101-day public inquiry but immediately attracted the attentions of protesters.

Manchester City Council owns 55 per cent of the shares in the airport, with the balance distributed equally among the nine other districts in Greater Manchester. During the past ten years the airport has paid more than £69 million in dividends to its local authority shareholders, and no taxpayers' money is being used to fund the terminal development or the improvements to ground transport.

During the inquiry more than 11,000 local people wrote in support of the second runway and opposition is growing to what they see as "southern protesters".

Already the runway is full at peak times, as are airports throughout the world. The number of people using Europe's airports will double within the next ten years to almost 800 million, according to the Geneva-based Air Transport Action Group. By 2000, it says, the cost to Europe's economy of air congestion will reach almost £4 billion a year.

Chemical alert on Scottish island

A beach and a nearby hotel on Barra, in the Outer Hebrides, were sealed off yesterday after a number of people became ill after reports of shoreline scum emitting a pungent chemical gas. Diane Worthington, owner of the Isle of Barra Hotel, and three coastguard volunteers developed headaches, irritated eyes and sore throats. Samples of the scum were flown to Glasgow by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency for analysis.

Gun prank

An ambulance trust manager has been suspended after a gun prank at work. Adrian Hessay, 44, of the North Yorkshire Ambulance Trust, allegedly offered an air pistol to a colleague who said she was so fed up she could shoot herself.

Speed merchant

Nick Sanders, 38, sets off this week to try to set a round-the-world speed record. He already holds the record for circumnavigating the world by bicycle, which he set at 78 days in 1985, and is now aiming to break the motorcycle record.

Lift let-down

Two office cleaners were taken to hospital suffering from dehydration after spending 26 hours trapped in a lift that jammed between floors in Bristol. No one heard the men's shouts for help until a security guard went on duty yesterday.

Sir Paul gets back

Sir Paul McCartney yesterday revived memories of the famous Beatles' rooftop concert in 1969 when he gave performed his new single, *Young Boy*, on the roof of his London office for a documentary on the making of his first solo album since 1980.

Royal stamps

Part of the Queen's stamp collection, including two extremely valuable Penny Blacks, will be on show at a four-day meeting of philatelists at Wembley Exhibition Centre from April 24. The display marks the Queen's golden wedding anniversary.

Cow slip

A cow that fell into a swimming pool at Babworth, Nottinghamshire, was rescued by firefighters using slings and a forklift truck. "She was getting very cold but apart from that she was OK," a spokesman said. "She trotted off quite happily."

Leading role model bows to pressure

IT WAS billed as a debate on "Women as Leaders: Superman and Sleeping Beauty" (Frances Gibb writes). In the chair was to be Cherie Booth, QC — a perfect opportunity to break from the role of supporting wife on the campaign trail and reassert herself as career woman and top QC. But after Tony Blair's so-called wobbly week, Labour's spin-doctors were taking no chances.

A posse of journalists were told that Ms Booth could no longer chair her session at the Woman Lawyer conference. The official reason? Doubts that she could make it in time after her trip to Ilford, east London, with the Labour leader for the unveiling of a plaque from Michael Winner's Police Memorial Trust. But the real reason, some

said, was advice from Labour headquarters not to do it. Ms Booth, voted Legal Personality of the Year two weeks ago, was firmly "minded" by Fiona Millar, her personal assistant, and stuck religiously to her brief.

She refused, with a polite smile, to be drawn on "sensitive questions thrown at her by journalists. Does she intend to continue her practice as QC if she is Prime Minister's wife? Lawyers were puzzled. If the Labour Party machine cramps her style now, how will she manage if her husband is in office, they pondered?

Ms Booth did, however, speak up strongly for a new initiative — of which she is a founder — in which lawyers will help those with discrimination problems at the Bar.

Sheep farmers placed on alert as rams stray into gay baas

By Michael Hornsby
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SHEEP farmers counting their lambs this spring may not have realised quite what a gamble they were taking when they relied on their rams' naturally lustful instincts last autumn. Research in America suggests that 10 per cent of rams are attracted only to other males and a further 10 per cent have no interest in sex at all. Farmers in Europe, they say, would be unwise to assume their sheep are much different.

Anne Perkins, chair of the psychology department at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, and a specialist in animal behaviour,

says: "Farmers should get their binoculars out and keep a close watch on their rams at mating time. If a ram does not pay attention to a female on heat within 30 minutes, then the chances are that it has very low libido, is asexual or male-orientated, and the farmer should get rid of it at once and buy another."

The phenomenon of homosexual sheep has hitherto not received the attention it deserves. Dr Perkins believes, because rams are typically reared in all-male groups and even straight ones commonly indulge in what looks like homosexual behaviour.

"Rams mounting other rams is normal," Dr Perkins explained. "It

starts even before puberty and is an expression of play and dominance, part of sheep hierarchy behaviour. So just because you see a male mounting another male does not mean it is necessarily homosexual-ly-orientated."

Dr Perkins and other scientists began to suspect that normal male bonding might not be the whole explanation for such behaviour because of the frequency of reports from farmers of poor breeding performance, both in America and in some other sheep-rearing countries, such as Australia.

"What I have been able to show is that approximately 8 to 10 per cent of rams are uniquely homosexual in that they do not recognise

females as a sexual turn-off. They will only mount other males and refuse to mount females even if offered repeated opportunities," she said.

In the experiments two rams and two ewes on heat were tethered by their heads to opposite sides of a rectangular stanchion. Other rams were then released into the field.

The homosexual rams would usually sniff the tethered females but would never mount them," Dr Perkins said. "They would respond primarily to the urine of the males. If one of the tethered males urinated, they would smell that and proceed to mount."

About 10 per cent of rams found the whole business of sex a turn-off

and would not mount animals of any gender, while others appeared to suffer from low libido or shyness and would perform only at night or if repeatedly exposed to a female.

Post-mortem examination showed differences in brain biochemistry. "Heterosexual rams have a large amount of oestrogen, the female hormone, in the area of the brain responsible for male copulatory behaviour, whereas females and homosexual rams do not," Dr Perkins said.

British sheep farmers, who have long had their own tried and tested methods for ensuring that their rams are giving value for money, took the news of the American research findings calmly yesterday.

Philip Merricks, who keeps a large flock on Romney Marsh near Rye in East Sussex, said: "Nothing would surprise me about sheep. It is not as if we leave everything to chance. The practical farmer always puts more than one ram with his ewes."

Like most other sheep farmers, Mr Merricks uses the "raddle", a leather harness attached to a six-inch block of coloured crayon that is fitted round the chest of the ram. "If the ram is working properly, he will leave a coloured mark on the rump of the ewes he mounts," he said. "Each ram has a different colour crayon, so you can quickly spot any chap that isn't doing the business."



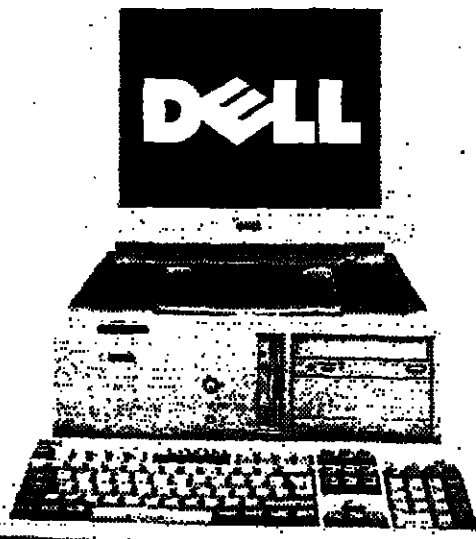
Poor stud record led to study of rams' sexual preferences

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ELECTION 97

Mo Mowlam becomes Labour's Iron Lady

Mo Mowlam - page 9

Eagle twins have their eyes on Westminster

Page 10

Tony Blair and his tabloid manifesto

Details - page 11

Greer tells Tatton Tories Hamilton misled them

IAN GREER, the lobbyist at the centre of the "cash-for-questions" controversy, has written to Tatton Conservative Association to accuse Neil Hamilton and his supporters of misleading activists during his fight to be re-elected as their candidate.

Mr Greer said that if he were in Mr Hamilton's place he would have stood down for the benefit of the Conservative Party. He also claimed that he was advised by a government whip not to disclose to a Commons select committee the names of three Tory MPs who had received thousands of pounds in commission from his company.

His decision to approach Tatton Tories on the eve of Wednesday's deadline for nominations will ensure that sleaze returns to the top of the election agenda today. Mr Greer acted after he discovered that Mr Hamilton had received the support of Andrew Smith, the managing director of Mr Greer's former lobbying company, to bolster Mr Hamilton's claim that he would have cleared his name in a High Court libel trial last October if the case had not collapsed.

Mr Smith, 35, a Conservative parliamentary candidate, who worked for Mr Greer's company when it paid Mr Hamilton £10,000 that was not declared, told a meeting of 150 Tatton Tory activists that the case collapsed because of discrepancies over the number of payments the lobbyist had made to another Tory MP, Sir Michael Grynlls.

Mr Smith absolved Mr Hamilton, who is a close friend, of any blame and said that the trial would have been his salvation.

But last night Mr Greer told *The Times*: "It is not true. It would appear Tatton Conservative Association has been told half-truths by

The political lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-questions investigation has urged the embattled Conservative to stand down as an election candidate for the sake of the party, writes Andrew Pierce



Andrew Smith to ensure Neil Hamilton's re-election. I am shocked that Andrew Smith, who is on the threshold of his own political career, has allowed himself to be used in this way. I do not know whether he was coached or not.

"But it would appear his memory is very selective when visiting Tatton. Andrew, who when he resigned from the company said he had no wish to be any further involved in this controversy, knows very well the circumstances that forced the collapse of the trial."

In his book on the cash-for-questions controversy, *One Man's Word*, which will be published on Wednesday, Mr Greer alleges a "dramatic disclosure", three days before the case was due to begin, of a minute of a conversation between Michael Heseltine and Neil Hamilton. He says it took place in October 1994, only days after *The Guardian* published the cash-for-questions allegations.

"Neil Hamilton had been asked by Michael Heseltine, who was then President of the Board of Trade, whether he had had a financial relationship with Ian Greer Associates. Neil Hamilton answered 'No', Mr Greer claimed.

"Neil Hamilton received commission payments from my com-

pany on two occasions," he claimed. "It was the killer blow for the trial. Andrew Smith, who discussed the Cabinet minute with Neil Hamilton, told me he had done it to buy himself time."

"We could no longer proceed. I would have preferred to have fought on, but to have done so I would have to have broken the shackles with Neil Hamilton. He would not stand down because he had persuaded fellow MPs to change a 300-year-old law to enable him to proceed."

Mr Greer has expressed shock in his book that Mr and Mrs Hamilton enjoyed a second all-expenses paid stay at Mohamed Al Fayed's guests in Paris in July 1990. The visit, which was also not declared, was made four months after Mr Al Fayed was described as a liar and a cheat by the Department of Trade and Industry.

It allegedly came to light only when transcripts of Mr Hamilton's evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary commissioner investigating the sleaze affair, were leaked to the press. Mr Greer claimed: "I was horrified to think that Neil had not told me during two years of preparation for the trial. As a co-plaintiff it would have been devastating for both of us if this revelation had come to light during the libel trial."

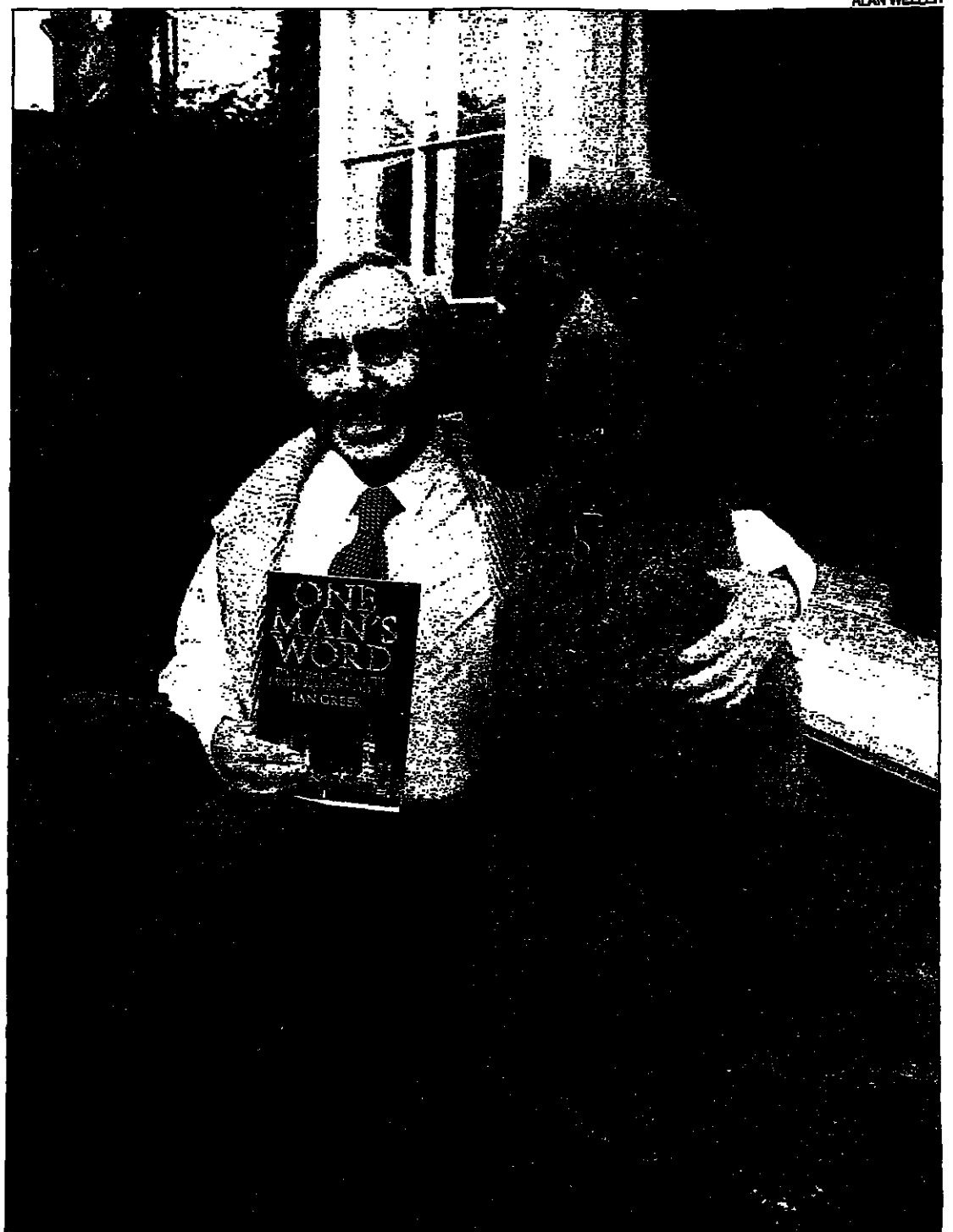
Mr Greer, whose lobbying company has gone into voluntary liquidation, claimed that when he was due to go before a private hearing of the Commons Select Committee on Privileges in 1990, to talk about payments to MPs, he sought out a Tory whip for advice.

"I went to see him ten days before the hearing. I told him I was not minded to name them. He told me to leave it with him. Two days before the hearing I went back to see him. He was emphatic: apologise, apologise and apologise, but don't name them. Call them A, B and C," he claimed.

Mr Greer says that he took the advice from the whip, whom he declined to name. The whip was made aware of the identity of the MPs. Two of them, Mr Hamilton and Michael Brown, were subsequently made ministers. Mr Brown, like Mr Hamilton, is standing for re-election. The third, Sir Michael, is standing down. The select committee issued new advice on declarations of payments after Mr Greer's appearance.

Mr Greer, who is canvassing for Jeremy Hanley, the former Tory Party chairman, said that Mr Hamilton was "in an appalling dilemma. If he stood down, people would say he took money from Al Fayed, which I do not believe." However, Mr Greer admitted that if it had been him, he "would have stood down for the sake of the Conservative Party".

The support of Andrew Smith, the candidate in Cynon Valley, South Wales, was decisive for Mr Hamilton in securing re-election. Pauline Breland, a member of the management committee of Tatton Conservatives, said: "He made clear Neil had nothing to do with the collapse." Mr Smith was not available for comment last night.



Ian Greer with his book - and dog Humphrey - at his home in southwest London

Clergy deliver verdict on sleaze

By CAROL MIDDLEY

THE Church entered the sleaze debate yesterday as clergy in Tatton gave their verdict on Neil Hamilton.

Some local ministers, most of them Methodist, criticised Mr Hamilton for being "brass-necked" in continuing to stand despite the damaging allegations against him. But other clergy remained loyal to Mr Hamilton, a regular churchgoer, Canon Brian Reeve, whose church, St Mary's (Church of England) is next door to Mr Hamilton's

house in Nether Alderley, insisted that his friend was a "man of integrity" but said some of his actions had been "unwise".

John Burgen, Roman Catholic priest in Alderley Edge, also defended Mr Hamilton's reputation. "I have admired what he has done both politically and personally," he said. "I have admired his integrity, steadfastness and his conviction of rightness."

The local ministers spoke out as it emerged that a public church meeting at which Mr Hamilton and Martin Bell,

the independent anti-sleaze candidate, were due to have appeared last night had been cancelled due to "lack of co-operation" from the candidates. Some gave their views in a religious programme, *Sunday*, for Radio 4. The Rev Brian Milfin, of the Methodist Church, Alderley Edge, where the meeting was to have been held, said: "Mr Hamilton at first said he wouldn't come but when Mr Bell emerged he said he would. Now Mr Bell has said he won't do anything until he has had his meeting with the

Liberal Democrats. My view is that he should resign." Canon John Banks said: "Neil Hamilton has already admitted to six things, any one of which is enough for him to resign." He criticised "mealy mouthed Christians" who refused to get involved in politics. "It's all very well making marmalade for Bosnia. They ought to stand up for what they believe." □ Ralph Nicholas, 46, a former policeman and Conservative councillor, is to stand as an independent Tory in Tatton.

WHAT THE TROOPS EAT ON THE BATTLE BUSES

John Major

Breakfast: Ham and cheese filled croissant or sticky sweet chocolate chip muffins probably favoured by Tory ladies from the shires. Tea and coffee.

Lunch: Prawn cocktail starter followed by cold meat and salad; and for dessert: cheese and chocolate mints, washed down with a quarter bottle of wine or water. Not one to queue for but as good as you will get out of a box.

Snacks: No snacks available on the bus; you have to nip into a newsagent for a packet of crisps.

Drinks: Coffee machine in full working order but no coffee. Free soft or alcoholic drinks on the plane.

Dinner: Fend for yourself on the bus and fight over a spare Mars Bar but sandwiches served the plane.

Mr Major eats: Egg and grapefruit for breakfast, the salad lunch like everyone else but has fruit, Pringles, milk and Marmite sandwiches to supplement his diet. Major has daily constitutional glass of chablis which aides said keeps him "pepped up."

Star rating: ★★★★★

Good food battle bus guide: Vast improvement in recent days as the upturn in Tony spirit is mirrored in the quality of fare after a sandwich laden first 2 weeks.

Tony Blair

Breakfast: Coffee, tea and a rather soggy almond croissant, much favoured in Islington but an acquired taste at Barn on Labour's election battle bus.

Lunch: Soggy, over-buttered sandwich rolls with a variety of fillings of uncertain origin. Followed by choice of fruit for pudding. All served with tolerance and efficiency by Sarah.

Snacks: Crisps, chocolate bars. Drinks: Cans of soft drinks, mineral water and an almost endless supply of tea and coffee. Cans of lager on the evening return trip.

Supper: Sandwich rolls left over from lunch. Should be attempted only in cases of extreme hunger. So far, only one cooked evening meal on a flight back to London.

Mr Blair eats: Tea and toast for breakfast with the occasional fry-up if spin doctor allows. Lunch is usually missed. Large healthy meal in evening. Snacks on apples. His spin doctors say: "Tony has the BBC for breakfast and ITN for lunch."

Star rating: ★★★★★

Good food battle bus guide: Bring your own packed lunch and a hip flask of your favourite tipple.

Paddy Ashdown

Breakfast: Coffee, biscuits, Danish pastries and - inexplicably - an after-dinner mint, served with tea or coffee during morning flight.

Lunch: Sandwiches. Bought in bulk by Mr Ashdown's secretary Becky from nearest shop on campaign route - anything from M&S to Bolognese the baker. Used to be handed round, now left in battle bus fridge for hawks to fight over. A BLT is the ultimate prize.

Snacks: Danish pastries or cake, sometimes muffins, plus tea or coffee and biscuits on afternoon flight.

Drinks: Small cartons of Ribena, orange squash etc. left in fridge. Beer and wine once on evening bus journey and late flight.

Supper: Only on late flights back to London. Smoked salmon followed by cold chicken, then cheese and cheesecake, all served at once. Wine or beer.

Mr Ashdown eats: The same as the reporters. "There is no special treatment for Paddy," an aide says. The Liberal Democrat leader has a "light supper" in the evenings.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Good food battle bus guide: Heaven if you love Danish pastries, otherwise be prepared to go hungry until lunchtime. Nutritionally speaking, this bus is a nightmare.

Party menus win few votes from connoisseurs

THE three party political armies may be marching on their stomachs as they criss-cross the country in fleets of battle buses but the dietary value of the food would give a nutritionist indigestion.

The Prime Minister has ordered a regular supply of fruit after surviving largely on Marmite sandwiches and the Pringles during the first two weeks of the campaign, interspersed with curry and fish and chips.

Tony Blair is not a big eater but no teapots is large enough to cater for his insatiable appetite for the drink. His food tastes are broad, and he is as happy to eat

fish and chips as he is pasta with sundried tomatoes.

Paddy Ashdown may be the leader who most needs a course of vitamin tablets by the time the campaign ends. Danish pastries and after-dinner mints have been among his nibbles. Otherwise it is sandwiches and more sandwiches. He does not stand on ceremony when it comes to eating on his battle bus. Last week he was heard complaining to reporters that they had taken the crisps he liked from the selection bought by his secretary.

Mr Ashdown, a former soldier, knows

the value of "stoking up" to maintain energy levels but his hectic schedule leaves him little time for proper meals. He has covered more miles so far than the other leaders, and starts his public day earlier. The best he has managed during the day was at a school in Sheffield, where he shared lunch with some of the youngest pupils, choosing cheese pie, chips and tinned tomatoes followed by jam tart.

Here *Times* writers aboard the party leaders' buses assess the quality and quantity of the fare on offer and give them a rating out of five.

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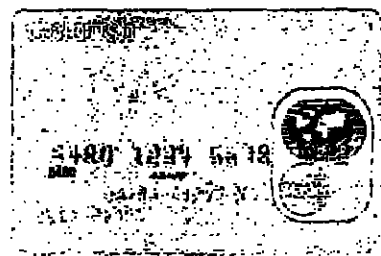


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BALLOT 97

THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

16: The environment

Westminster factory recycles green idealism

ONLY a sheet of recycled paper separates the main political parties on environmental issues. And a very thin slice it is too.

The Conservatives are pushing their record on meeting international agreements from reducing acid rain and combating global warming to phasing out substances depleting the ozone layer. They are keen to publicise achievements in recycling, cleaning up the air and boosting the number of new homes built on derelict land.

Labour are pledging tougher action on global warming, and support for cleaner technologies and solar power. They have also set out plans for a green task-force of unemployed youth to tackle derelict land, insulate homes and manage neglected wildlife sites.

The most radical policies are

from the Liberal Democrats, who have pledged several green strategies including cutting car tax for small engine cars, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 30 per cent over 15 years and slashing VAT on energy-saving materials.

It has been asked whether political leaders really are serious about the environment. Certainly, these days no politician can appear hostile to green concerns. But Labour, despite its widely admired document *In Trust for Tomorrow* and a positive speech by Tony Blair on green issues in February 1996, has, until recently, had little to say on the subject. The trade unions have traditionally viewed anti-pollution measures and action to protect wildlife as a threat to jobs and economic prosperity, and their influence was thought to be strong

in preventing a change in Labour attitudes.

The appointment of Michael Meacher, a leftwinger, to shadow environment protection, discouraged green campaigners who feared that such issues were being downgraded. Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, concentrated his attack on the government record largely on the question of water leaks, and campaigners complained about Labour's lack of more visionary ideas.

Mr Dobson's attacks paid off: the Government's embarrassment at the poor record of privatised water companies was intensified by angry consumer reaction. Those facing hosepipe bans or threatened with water cut-offs and standpipes saw Mr Dobson's point.

The Conservative record, on the

other hand, has improved. John Gummer, who carried little weight on his appointment as Environment Secretary in 1993, has won support from green campaigners for his commitment and ability to translate complex issues into straightforward policy. Even radical pressure groups such as Greenpeace have admitted a grudging admiration for his measures to combat global warming.

Labour realised it was losing the initiative in this field only when Charles Secret, of Friends of the Earth, launched a full-scale attack on the party's record. He accused Labour of cowardice and complacency. Labour was taken aback. Opinion polls showing that the

environment was important to floating voters and women were presented to the Labour leadership. Mr Blair responded by ordering that the environment be given more prominence. Shadow spokesmen have since been inserting at least some references to a green agenda in their speeches. Mr Blair has promised that in no area of Labour government would the environment be ignored.

Similar pledges have been made by the Conservatives in recent years. John Major has focused on air pollution and initiatives to clean up car, lorry and diesel emissions. Nevertheless, it remains unclear how green the Conservatives really are. On the day the main Tory manifesto was published, a separate green one also came out. Did this signal the importance of the

environment or emphasise the rift between Mr Gummer and other ministers?

The main differences between the parties are in the implementation of environmental policies. The Tories have promised to back a Europe-wide scheme to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 10 per cent by 2010. Labour has backed a 20 per cent target but has so far failed to outline how these more severe curbs would be enforced.

One of Labour's vote-catching policies, to reduce VAT on heating bills to 5 per cent, appears to be at odds with its goals on climate change. Critics argue that cutting VAT will damage energy efficiency schemes unless conservation measures are made cheaper too.

The export potential of developing environmental technologies

has become a central plank of Labour policy; and it is hoped that it will win over sceptics in the party and trade unions who fear that concern for the environment costs jobs.

Mr Meacher has also outlined plans to include solar power in the green energy schemes that qualify for aid, financed by the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation, during the costly start-up period.

The notion of a green audit of government could be the most significant move. In theory, everything from ministers' cars to paper clips would be costed for its environmental impact. It would put Britain well ahead internationally in the commitment to green ideals. So far, only Labour has suggested that it would take a strong line on this.

Own goals at home spoil away victories

THE Government has won international praise in the environmental field, but at home its performance has been less assured.

Taking the lead from Margaret Thatcher's celebrated speech at the Royal Society in 1988, the Government has taken the lead in restrictions on greenhouse gases. Indeed, Britain is one of the few countries expected to exceed its commitment to stabilise carbon dioxide emission at the 1990 level by 2000, as agreed at the Rio Earth summit in 1992.

Much of the progress on carbon dioxide emission has been achieved by running down the coal industry in favour of gas and extending the life of older nuclear power stations. It has also been a byproduct of the recession. But the achievement is undeniably impressive when compared with that of other industrial nations.

The Government has, however, appeared unable to square many other green policies with the ideology of the free market and its aversion to regulation.

The success of an Environment Secretary is measured by his ability to persuade colleagues in other ministries, especially Agriculture, Transport, Trade and Industry and the Treasury, to take account of environmental issues in policy planning. In the past 18 years the top man at environment has often appeared uncomfortable with the brief or, as in the case of the incumbent, John Gummer, has seen colleagues publicly supporting reforms but privately rejecting them as too radical and a burden to industry.

In some areas, Mr Gummer's impressive grasp of green issues and his enthusiasm for the job have won over sceptics. But despite supportive words, ministries have been unable to make real reform in areas such as over-

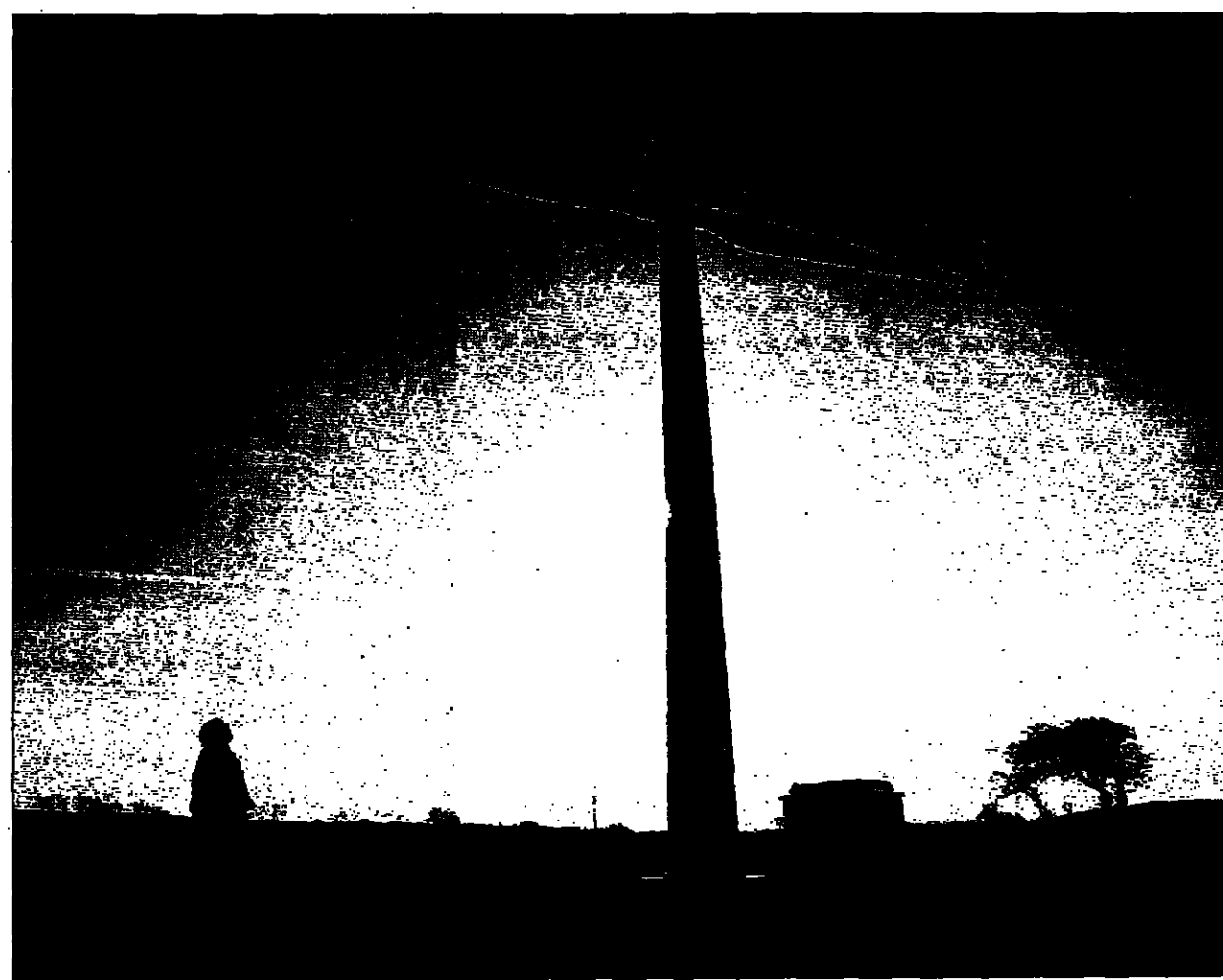
fishing and North Sea oil pollution. The disposal of oil and gas installations in the deep Atlantic has put the Department of Trade and Industry at odds with the Environment Department.

Intensive agriculture has taken its toll on nature. In the past two decades, once-common songbirds such as the thrush have declined by up to 50 per cent. So-called agri-environment schemes, designed to make agriculture kinder to wildlife by paying farmers to use fewer chemicals and to plant forests instead of crops, have only recently secured the necessary financial resources.

The creation in 1996 of the Environment Agency, to deal with air, land and water pollution, led to controversy. There were claims that it had been shackled from birth because the Government gave it the responsibility to balance the costs and benefits of cleaning up the environment.

At the 1992 election, John Major promised to set up the Energy Saving Trust. This was to have the job of cutting carbon dioxide emission from homes and industries through such methods as increasing the use of energy-saving light bulbs and appliances. It was to be funded, not by state grants, but by a levy on the newly privatised electricity and gas industries, under the principle of "the polluter pays".

Today the trust has a budget of just £80 million rather than the £400 million expected. Clare Spottiswoode, the Gas Regulator, declared the levy illegal. The Environment Department wanted pressure put on her to change her view, but Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, refused. Possibly the most troubled area of Tory environment policy has been planning. The



A levy on electricity companies is raising more than £1 billion to encourage alternative energy sources such as wind

early years were marked by an unwritten policy of giving developers priority over council planning policies. Under the late Nicholas Ridley, companies wanting to build homes in the green belt or to develop out-of-town shopping got a sympathetic reception.

The view was that existing planning structures were a burden to enterprise. This unleashed a development free-for-all, especially in south and southeast England, which in turn led to a rise in road-building and traffic.

Mrs Thatcher, while no admirer of the green movement, paid attention to scientific evidence of the threat of global warming after being lobbied by Sir John Houghton, head of the Meteorological Office, and Sir Crispin Tickell, former UN Ambassador. She also noted the success of the Green Party in the European elections in June 1989 and began a greening of British government.

Mr Ridley was replaced by Chris Patten who, in 1991, signalled a return to formal local authority planning. There had been increasing opposition, particularly in Tory constituencies in the South, to huge building

schemes. During the past three years Mr Gummer has overhauled the planning system, drafting new rules to steer housing, leisure, retail and business development back into towns and inner cities.

Tighter European emission controls on vehicles are being phased in. A national air quality strategy, although slow to emerge, has now been introduced alongside these measures. Limits on pollutants have been based on advice from medical and scientific experts. Councils are required to pinpoint pollution hotspots and draft plans to reduce emissions by 2005.

The record on tackling waste has been more consistent. Kenneth Clarke was hailed by environmental protection groups as the first "green Chancellor" when he announced the landfill levy. The groups cite this as the kind of reform that could make Britain healthier and cleaner without costing jobs or affecting economic performance. Businesses and councils are charged to dump rubbish in tips. The money raised is used to encourage recycling by cutting the National Insurance costs of com-

panies which run reclamation businesses. Taxes have also been used to promote cleaner fuels. Emission of some exhaust fumes has risen more than 40 per cent since 1989. The Government has promised that each year petrol and diesel prices will rise at a rate higher than that of inflation. In two budgets there have been reduced duties on low-sulphur diesel and compressed natural gas.

A levy of more than £1 billion has been introduced to support nuclear power and to encourage the use of renewable energies such as wind, energy from waste, small-scale hydroelectricity and electricity from crops. The levy, the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation, is imposed on electricity companies and funds environment-friendly energy schemes during their costly start-up phase.

The Government has overseen steady improvements in the quality of rivers and bathing waters, partly the result of European legislation that has forced water companies to invest in multi-billion-pound sewage clean-up programmes.

The protection of wildlife has been strengthened by a

series of measures: the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, European directives such as those on birds and habitats, and measures to protect sites of special scientific interest.

There have been contradictions. While wildlife habitats on private land are less at risk from developers, the Government has often ignored restrictions for its own infrastructure schemes. John Redwood, as Welsh Secretary, put economic interest above wildlife and the environment when backing the Cardiff Bay barrage.

The Government divided the Nature Conservancy Council into separate Scottish, Welsh and English bodies. It is widely suspected that this was because the council, the Government's scientific and wildlife adviser, had too much power over landowners. The parts are considered to be less than the sum.

On a more positive note, the Government drafted plans to conserve and to encourage more than 100 threatened plants and animals, including the violet click beetle and the red squirrel. This initiative meets commitments under the Rio Biodiversity Convention, and makes Britain one of the first nations to do so.

THE POLITICIANS

JOHN GUMMER

Age: 57

Education: King's School, Rochester, and Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Family: married with four children.

Experience: entered Commons in 1970; party vice-chairman, 72-74; assistant whip, 81; Lord Commissioner of Treasury, 81-83; junior Employment Minister, 83; party chairman, 83-85; Employment Minister, 83-84; Paymaster-General, 84-85; Minister of State, MAFF, 85-88; Minister of State at Environment, 88-89; Agriculture Minister, 89-93; Environment Secretary since 93.

Politics: wet, Europhile, one-nation Tory.

Performance: lively, off-the-cuff orator.



MICHAEL MEACHER

Age: 57

Education: Berkhamsted School; New College, Oxford.

Family: married with four children.

Experience: entered Commons 1970; junior Industry Minister, 74-75; junior Minister, DHSS, 75-76; trade, 76-79; in Shadow Cabinet since 1983; chief spokesman on health and social security, 83-87; employment, 87-89; social security, 89-92; overseas development, 92-93; the citizen's charter, 93-94; transport, 94-95; employment 95-96; environment



tal protection since 1996. Politics: old-fashioned conviction socialist. Performance: intelligent speaker but easily put off his stride in debate.

WHAT THEY SAID

In recent years, we have been playing with the conditions of the life we know on the surface of our planet. We have cared too little for our seas, our forests and our land. We have treated the air and the oceans like a dustbin.

Margaret Thatcher, Nov 1990

We will put concern for the environment at the heart of policymaking, so that it is not an add-on extra, but informs the whole of government.

Tony Blair, April 1997

If the prospect of slightly warmer summers and faster cricket outfields here seems a happy one, we should pause to think of the devastating effects that famine, flooding and uncontrolled

changes in the earth's climate could have on less fortunate people around the world.

John Major, March 1997

Is the lifestyle we are creating sustainable in a way that we can continue to develop without cheating on our children or grandchildren? If we go on like we are these islands will be covered in housing.

John Gummer, Oct 1996

We could carry on polluting our environment and postpone living more lightly on our planet... but deep down, everyone knows the longer we duck these decisions, the higher the price we pay in the next century.

Paddy Ashdown, April 1997

THE FACTS

□ Hedgerows in England and Wales have declined steadily over recent years, from 563,000 kilometres in 1984 to 377,000 in 1993.

□ Carbon emissions have fallen between 1980 and 1995 despite a rise in emissions from vehicles. In 1980 the UK emitted 163 million tonnes falling to 148.8 million in 1994. Britain should easily stabilise emissions at 1990 level of 156.6 million tonnes by 2000 to meet international agreements.

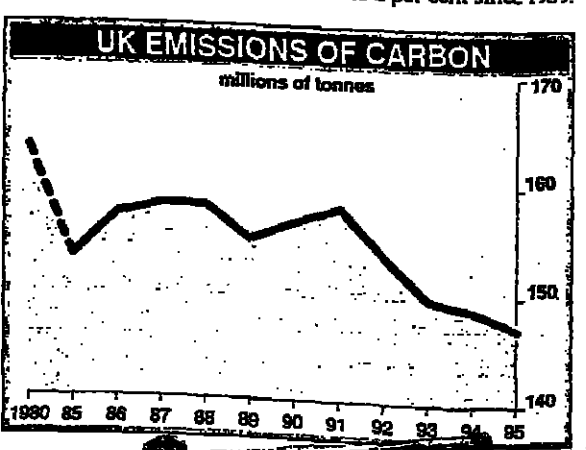
□ In 1996 90 per cent of British beaches met the basic European quality standards, up from 56 per cent in 1986.

□ Nearly 50 per cent of new

homes are being built on abandoned or derelict land, up from 37 per cent 10 years ago. But the amount of agricultural, forestry and other greenfield land lost to building developments rose to 13,000 hectares a year between 1984 and 1990.

□ The number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest — important wildlife habitats — that have been damaged by development or neglect, has fallen from 253 in 1990-91 to 154 in 1994-95.

□ The proportion of the nation's electricity generated by renewable energy, such as wind and water power, has climbed from zero to 2 per cent since 1989.



CONSERVATIVES



Global warming: will back moves to cut emission of global warming gases by 10 per cent by 2010.

Recycling: aims to increase the amount of household waste recycled to 25 per cent by 2000 with recycling facilities available to 80 per cent of homes by the same date.

Land and housing: aims to have at least 60 per cent of 4.4 million new homes built on derelict or old land. Will promote conversion of offices to flats and use of space above shops.

Forestry: will double the amount of forest cover in Britain during the next 50 years.

Water: the regulator will ensure that water companies reduce leaks substantially. Will set legally binding leak-control targets on companies if needed. Supports selective metering to reduce waste.

Wildlife: studying tax breaks for companies that support local environmental trusts conserving wildlife.

Green consumerism: will continue to back the Going For Green initiative, providing public advice on environmentally friendly living. Promises to increase energy and eco-labelling of goods. Will improve green labelling to make it clear and informative.

Environmental standards: will establish an Environmental Audit Commission to raise standards of green audits and reporting by firms and local authorities.

LABOUR



Global warming: will cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2010.

Recycling: has no targets for the level of household waste it will seek to recycle nor any for the availability of facilities. Has pledged to increase the landfill tax.

Land and housing: no targets for the reuse of derelict or old land.

Forestry: aims to double forest cover by the middle of next century but with interim target of 50 per cent increase by 2010.

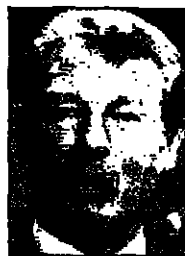
Water: opposes compulsory metering. Will ban domestic disconnections by water companies and set mandatory leak targets.

Wildlife: will set up Sites of National Importance and Sites of Local Importance, which may give stronger protection to present county wildlife sites.

Green consumerism: plans to go further than the Conservatives by including mandatory labelling information of high-value goods detailing the energy used to make and operate them and the ways of disposing of the end product. Products that are tested on animals will be banned from gaining an eco-label.

Environmental standards: Labour will carry out green audit of government departments to ensure that policies reflect their environmental impact.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Global warming: will aim to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent by 2010.

Recycling: will push for Europe-wide schemes that force manufacturers to make goods that are easier to recycle. Deposit refund schemes, like the old system for drinks bottles, will be extended.

Land and housing: will review

forecasts on the need for 4.4 million new homes and use taxes to make developing greenfield sites more expensive than building on derelict ones.

Forestry: long-term aim to double forest cover, but no date. Would favour more conifer planting in uplands but within tight environmental criteria.

Water: will force water companies to pay for national environmental projects. Excess profits will be rebated to customers and ploughed into green schemes. Targets will be set for reducing leaks.

Wildlife: marine areas at high risk from accidents and oil spills will be designated with restrictions on shipping. New wildlife Bill to boost protection of habitat.

Green consumerism: will cut VAT on energy-saving appliances and materials to 8 per cent. Will push for Europe-wide scheme of energy and eco-friendly labelling.

Environmental standards: will set targets for improving quality of life, such as cleaner air or limits on the growth of cars, to be reviewed in Parliament annually. Green issues will be merged with energy to form a new department.

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Voters praise Mowlam's courage over tumour

MO MOWLAM probably never thought of herself as an Iron Lady, but yesterday, as news spread of her successful fight to beat a non-cancerous brain tumour, even Margaret Thatcher's fans were making complimentary comparisons.

Dr Mowlam, who is defending Redcar for Labour, was out canvassing in the neighbouring Tory marginal of Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland yesterday, and everywhere there were tributes for the way she had dealt with her problem. As Dr Mowlam spoke to Sunday lunchtime drinkers at Murphy's Bar in the mining hamlet of Loftus, Sandra Murphy, the Tory-voting landlady, declared: "She's a wonderful lady. I think Mrs Thatcher did a wonderful job and Marjorie Mowlam is from the same mould. She has guts and determination and she has been groomed very well for the position she is in. If she was the Labour leader I would vote for her without hesitation."

The Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary was campaigning for Ashok Kumar, the Labour candidate in the Labour marginal who, in a 1991 by-

Press speculation about her weight gain forced Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman to come out publicly about her health, Paul Wilkinson writes

election won the seat, then known as Langbaurgh before minor boundary changes. At the 1992 general election, Michael Bates re-took the seat for the Tories and is defending a notional majority of 1,500.

As Dr Mowlam walked through the spring sunshine, several locals approached her to wish her well after reading of her illness in the Sunday papers. Jenny Dickinson, said: "She is a credit to the Labour Party. It is amazing that she has bounced back so quickly. I have always admired her determination in politics, but now she has shown that she has the same grit in her private life as well. Everyone admires her fantastic courage. She also happens to be a superb MP."

At Loftus Working Men's Club, most people were glued to the television coverage of the local team, Middlesbrough, playing Chesterfield

in the FA Cup semi-finals. Dr Mowlam sat and chatted about Boro's chances of reaching the finals.

She said that it had been important that press speculation about her did not distract her from the campaign. "I am relieved that all this is out in the open now so that I can forget about it and get on with winning the election."

She shrugged off hostile pieces that appeared in certain newspapers earlier this month which referred to her having suddenly put on weight and attributed it to her having given up smoking. The writers were unaware that it was steroid treatment that caused her to gain two stones.

"There was quite a lot in the newspapers, but in politics, you expect that," Dr Mowlam said. "They were not to know what was going on. I decided in the end I didn't want to lead people up the garden path: I

just thought it was easier to put it in the public domain.

"I have been touched by the genuine concern of people in politics and the media."

She was grateful no one had twigged that her new bob was in fact a wig, replacing hair lost through chemotherapy. "It was a nightmare when people started paying me compliments on my new hairstyle."

Fighting the election campaign and winning it was one of the things that made me so very determined to push through my illness and I am looking forward to the rest of the campaign.

"Now, if my hair blows off, everyone will know why. Since the news broke, I have had an awful lot of flowers and cards. I went to the Mayor's Ball in Redcar on Saturday night and everyone wanted to give me a hug. It was wonderful. Friends have been asking why I didn't tell them what was going on. That is just the way I wanted to deal with the illness."

Dr Kumar said: "She is known in the party for her gentleness, and I bet everyone wishes they could have someone like her in their team."



Mo Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman, campaigning yesterday

Tories seek BBC ban on Labour anthem

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Conservative Party wrote to Radio 1 yesterday demanding that it ban *Things Can Only Get Better*, the former chart-topping single by D:Ream adopted by Labour as its campaign anthem.

The record is being re-released on April 21, and the group's songwriter and lead singer Peter Cunnah, a Labour supporter, has promised part of the royalties to the party.

The Tories' director of communications, Charles Lewington, said that he was concerned that by playing the record, the BBC would in effect be paying royalties to Labour.

Matthew Bannister, Radio 1 controller, replied that the song, which reached No 1 in 1994, could still be played on air if it re-entered the Top 40. Until then it would not feature on the station's playlist because of its policy of not listing re-releases.

The illness that challenges 3,000 people a year



MEDICAL BRIEFING

JULIA SOMERVILLE'S recovery after surgery to remove a benign tumour from the covering of her brain will give encouragement to Mo Mowlam as she continues to campaign despite suffering the side effects of radiotherapy and steroids.

Many brain tumours are the result of the secondary spread of malignant growths from elsewhere in the body. Fortunately there is no question of this having happened in Dr Mowlam's case.

There are many different types of primary brain tumour, which sometimes grow in one of the structures within the skull. These tumours are categorised as benign or malignant, but the division is based on the pathology of the tumour cells rather than the guarantee of a successful outcome, which can depend on the position of the growth within the brain as well as the nature of the cells.

The most common benign brain tumour is the meningioma, such as the one which affected Ms Somerville, the newscaster, and Elizabeth Taylor, the actress. The usual treatment for a meningioma is surgery; usually it can be removed in its entirety. If it cannot be removed completely without damaging surrounding structures, or if it recurs, treatment of the remnants with radiotherapy may be necessary. The future outlook is usually good.

The malignancy of tumours classified as malignant varies from highly malignant gliomas, to other gliomas such as astrocytomas which are classified as being of low-grade malignancy. These are usually treated by surgery or, if this is not possible, radiotherapy. The prognosis varies depending on factors such as the patient's age and the amount of the tumour which can be

removed. Medulloblastomas, tumours affecting a different part of the brain, are treated by whole-head radiation, often with chemotherapy at the same time. The prognosis in these cases, who are usually young, is good and the majority of patients have no further trouble for five years; in nearly 50 per cent of cases, the person is still problem-free ten years after the initial treatment.

Each year, more than 3,000 new cases of primary brain tumour, both benign and malignant, are treated in the United Kingdom. Many patients become aware of a brain tumour only because of a seizure. In other cases, the increasing pressure within the brain may cause severe headaches, usually worse each morning but improving as the day wears on. The headaches may be associated with dizziness, nausea, memory loss or personality change, particularly an uncharacteristic irritability. Other patients will have experienced changes in their vision, or a haemorrhage may have occurred into a rapidly growing tumour, giving stroke-like symptoms.

Dr Mowlam's increase in weight is unlikely to be the direct result of radiotherapy unless it has upset the hormonal balance maintained by the pituitary gland at the base of the brain. Obesity is an almost invariable side-effect of heavy-dose steroid therapy, prescribed in these cases to prevent swelling around the tumour.

Dr Mowlam has done remarkably well, and has behaved with much fortitude to continue her political life while weathering the notoriously unpleasant side-effects of her treatment.

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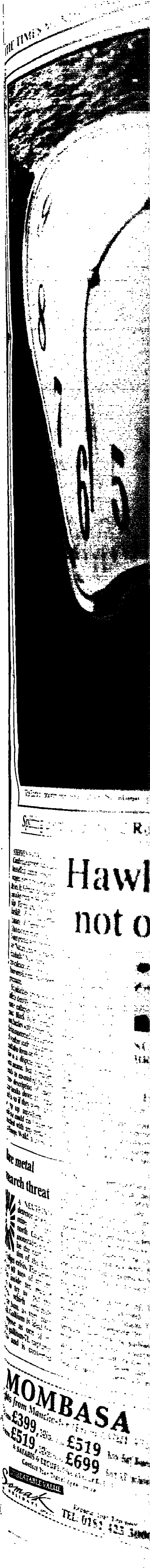
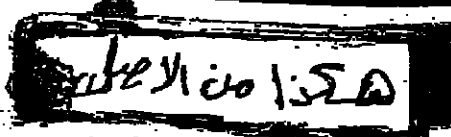
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CHANGING TIMES

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If so, says Dr Prestage, then "low-budget, table-top experiments with clocks may go far beyond accelerator-based experiments in exploring grand unified theories of matter". Evidently, the clock still has plenty to offer science.

He believes that it is time to sort out the ambiguities by adopting UTC as the legal timescale, and proposes to introduce a Private Member's Bill into the Lords to this effect when Parliament reassembles. "I'm concerned that we all this hype over measuring time

The NPL clock and its successors use as a reference the frequency of the microwave radiation emitted by atoms of caesium-133. Liquid caesium is heated in an oven, freeing atoms that escape through a hole to be irradiated by microwaves. The radiation pumps some of them up into a higher energy state, and these excited atoms are counted by measuring the fluorescence they emit.

The problems arise because Earth is a worse timekeeper than the caesium clocks. Its molten core and oceans mean that it tends to slow down. Over the years, this is measured by atomic clocks and by out of synchronisation with other clocks measured by the rotation of the Earth.

He believes that it is time to sort out the ambiguities by adopting UTC as the legal timescale, and proposes to introduce a Private Member's Bill into the Lords to this effect when Parliament reassembles. "I'm concerned that we all this hype over measuring time

cal general relativity.


Male genitalia are best female organs are also used he told *New Scientist*. The problem is manipulating the hypodermic needle required to insert the alcohol. "Unless you are very careful, it is liable to smash the specimen apart," Dr Matthews says.

MEDICAL opinion is divided. Many doctors believe there is indeed a male menopause (or *andropause*) and thousands of men suffer from loss of libido, aches and pains, irritability, depression, night sweats or poor performance.

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A NEUTRINO detector down a mine in the north Caucasus mountains could be the next victim of the Russian budget crisis. The detector uses 60 tons of molten gallium inside ten reactor vessels to try to spot particles, which originate from the Sun, as they pass through. Gallium is ideal for this purpose as one of its isotopes, gallium-71, captures neutrinos and is converted

Rather than give it up, the researchers threatened to burn themselves to death. The order was temporarily rescinded. Without the gallium monitoring of solar neutrinos, we would have to stop before the mystery of why there are fewer of them has been solved.

MEDICAL opinion is divided. Many doctors believe there is indeed a male menopause (or *andropause*) and thousands of men suffer from loss of libido, aches and pains, irritability, depression, night sweats or poor performance.

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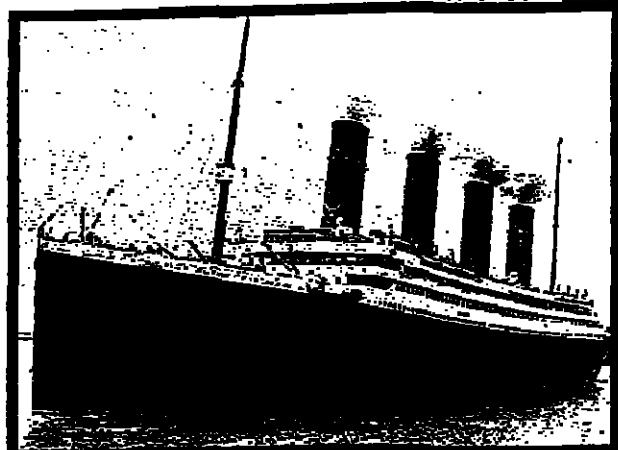
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Dinner as the ship went down



Erica Wagner hosts a meal to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the Titanic disaster

I didn't follow the instructions. I didn't send out handwritten, formal invitations. I didn't insist on formal dress (evening wear for the men, close-fitting, floor-length gowns for the women). I didn't provide facsimile cabaret tickets, nor potted biographies — Isidor Straus, Molly Brown, Captain Smith — of the "characters" I wished my guests to play. And I did not serve an 11-course meal, put off, perhaps, by the dire warnings at the back of my new cookbook: "Do not try to prepare this meal by yourself. Enlist at least one sous-chef and a dishwasher to help you."

But then, I had reservations about recreating, as the title of my new cookbook has it, the *Last Dinner on the Titanic*. "There is more to re-creating the final first-class dinner on the *Titanic* than cooking and serving the dishes we describe in this book," write Rick Archibald and Dana McCauley as they set out to tell us how to "choreograph" a first-class *Titanic* dinner. You can say that again. Do you jog the table (discreetly kicking a leg, perhaps) at 11.40pm, the moment the ship encountered the fatal berg? How do you tell your guests, when the last bottle of Chateau d'Ape is drunk, that they won't be allowed to leave as the last lifeboats have already gone?

The *Titanic* industry grinds on, but has been particularly busy of late. Beryl Bainbridge's fine novel, *Every Man*

For Himself, set on the ship, was pipped at the post for last year's Booker Prize. Items have been recovered from the wreck and exhibited; last summer there was an attempt to raise part of the hull. An exhibition that has just opened in Memphis, Tennessee, includes a model of the *Titanic*'s deck so that patrons may imagine themselves aboard the doomed vessel; a musical, the previews of which have been troubled by an apparently unsinkable *Titanic*, is about to open in New York; James Cameron's \$180 million movie is still to come.

Steven Biel is a Harvard historian and the author of the just-published *Down With the Old Canoe: A Cultural History of the Titanic*, an intriguing study of the myths and meanings which have come to cluster around the wreck. "There's no easy explanation for this sudden explosion of interest," he says. "There's not a big tradition of 85th anniversaries being particularly significant. I think the fact that this one's coming at the end of century has meant that people have reflected on the symbolic importance of the *Titanic*, and how the disaster seems to raise doubts about progress, about technology."

Nowadays — really since the appearance of Walter Lord's *A Night To Remember* in 1956 — the *Titanic* disaster is seen as a kind of cataclysm: before that April night, all was well with the world; afterwards came the First World War and chaos, and nothing was ever the same. Biel points out that this was not, in fact, the case. Activists for causes that were already well-established in 1912 — labour movements, women's suffrage, minorities seeking equality (and the opponents of all these)



Edwardian elegance at the dinner table by the artist Paul Chabas: Erica Wagner's own dining room may have lacked something in authenticity, but social icebergs were avoided

— seized upon the *Titanic* and tried to claim her for their own. And yet this image of a kinder, gentler time is a pervasive one, one that was longed for, perhaps, even then, when "short-haired women" were informed they should shut up about voting and be glad that

gallant men, had sacrificed their places in the boats for them. It is to this time that *Last Dinner on the Titanic* wishes to return us, a time when the words "dinner party" didn't mean carving up a pizza, jollying on the sofa and watching *ER*. Even for a short-haired woman, it was a tempting notion. And so I made the calls. "You're doing what?" asked Aled.

"Having a *Titanic* dinner party," I said. There was silence, somewhat ominous. "We said we'd all get together," I continued brightly. "This is the perfect opportunity."

"I suppose," he said. "Should we prepare our last farewells?" "Just come over," I said. "About eight."

David and Rebecca were persuaded, too. "What should we wear?"

Evening clothes for the men, close-fitting, floor-length gowns for the women. "Whatever you want," I said. "Sailor suits. I don't mind. Just come."

And so they did. Everyone was prompt. The men, I noted, wore jackets. All stepped over our threshold tentatively, expecting, perhaps, that we might have hung lifeboat davits out the back or rigged up an iceberg out of chicken wire and old sheets in the garden. They looked a little startled, a touch relieved, that no such arrangements were in evidence.

In the "reception room" (the most elegant room in your house, apart from the dining room), the host introduces each gentleman to the lady he will "take down" to dinner and with whom he will converse while drinks are served.

Hopeless, hopeless. There's no dining room, only a kitchen, and the "reception room" is rather too Early-Ikea to count as altogether elegant. Still, my husband Francis bravely trooped our guests upstairs.

Neither couple had met before and Francis didn't know any of them, and I could hear introductions being made as I scampered back down to the kitchen. "When we cooked ten courses last year, we felt we were being taken back in time by eating the food," Rick Archibald had told me when I spoke to him.

Quite. There's none of this preparing-a-cold-pasta-salad-a-day-in-advance-and-getting-to-chat-to-your-guests nonsense when it's Edwardian authenticity you're after. The *potage St Germain* needed straining, the leg of lamb needed searing, the carrots needed creaming; luckily the *macédoine de fruits* had been made that afternoon — the ice-cream to accompany it I had declined to churn myself, but procured from Häagen-Dazs, safe in the knowledge that Luigi Gatti, first-class restaurant manager on board the *Titanic*, would have done the same had he been able.

Once we were all seated (or mostly seated: these 1912-style meals do require a certain amount of leaping up and down on the part of the chef) I am afraid to report that the conversation was mostly what you would expect. Francis refused to impersonate Captain Smith, and apart from a quick run-down of changes in

shipping regulations and a threat, from the two Americans at the table, to sing a rendition of the summer-camp song *Oh They Built The Ship Titanic*, it was an evening that steered pretty well clear of icebergs. Everyone got on rather well. And so we talked into the night.

The *macédoine* was set on the table at about twenty minutes to midnight, just the time when some first-class passengers reported feeling "a slight jar", and steerage passengers were knocked from their bunks by the impact of the berg. We opened another bottle of wine, because now we were having a fine time.

It was after two when our last guests left. Aled and Deborah strolled out of our

front door and safely into their car, and no one thought of the *Titanic*'s stern, queeringly tipped at nearly 90 degrees to the sea's surface, or the cries of the freezing and drowning. We did the dishes. We went to bed.

When I spoke to Walter Lord, who wrote the introduction to *Last Dinner on the Titanic*, he told me of a trip he took to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where many of *Titanic*'s dead are buried. There he saw a solitary headstone with Luigi Gatti's name on it: his evening ended less easily than ours.

● *Last Dinner on the Titanic: Menus and Recipes from the Great Liner by Rick Archibald and Dana McCauley* is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, priced £9.99.

● *Down With The Old Canoe: A Cultural History of the Titanic by Steven Biel* is published by Norton, priced £18.95.

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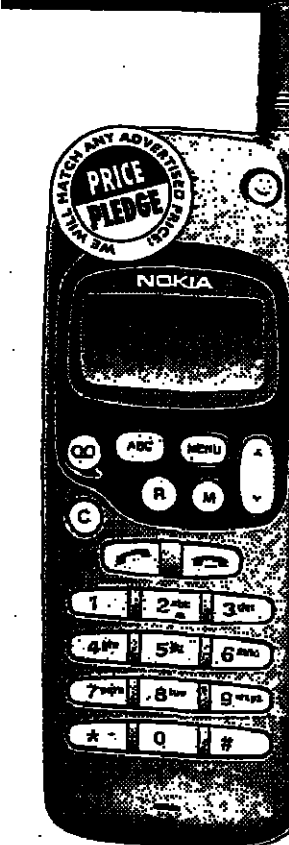
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'I was startled when Madonna fancied me. I'm startled when anybody does'

Writer Tim Willocks is fascinated by masculinity. Interview by Robert Crampton



"Hollywood is a very highly strung place, but I never get that anxious. Compared to worrying about whether you've killed someone or not, it doesn't matter"

Tim Willocks is wearing a black Donna Karan double-breasted suit and underneath it, black braces and a black Moschino vest, no shirt. A good deal of curly ginger chest hair is coming out over the vest. His pale skin sports three tattoos — a phoenix and a scorpion on either shoulder, a laughing man on the inside of his left forearm. The legend "Those Who Are" is etched in Greek below the phoenix. He volunteers, sheepishly, that it is misspelt. He is 6ft 3in and comfortably over 200lbs, not all of it muscle.

He has a black belt in karate but, due to a back problem, his training has lapsed a little. A paunch has developed, the sort of paunch that might make you or me think twice about leaving home without our shirts. To be fair, Willocks has the build of a man in a flat in Barnes, forcing him to lodge temporarily with a friend. His red hair — until recently Byronically long — has been cut short and gelled back. He has moist, pale blue eyes and very thick pink lips. His are

the sort of features that can look either strikingly beautiful or pretty damn ugly.

Madonna, no less, was of the former view. They sat next to each other at a New York dinner party given, a couple of years ago, to celebrate the success of Willocks' second novel, the bowel-grippingly violent, sensationally rude prison thriller *Green River Rising*. Madonna liked what she heard and saw, and they embarked on a two-month affair.

Was he flattered that she fancied him? "Yeah, yeah I was," he replies in his shy, slow Manchester accent, so at odds with his extraordinary appearance. "I was startled. I'm generally startled when anybody fancies me to be honest." Did he become self-conscious, what with her doing all that jogging and working out? "As it happened, I wasn't in bad shape at the time. I was no



Madonna liked what she heard and saw

more self-conscious than I normally am."

The affair ended amicably, and they have met up once since. "I think she's great, very bright, very gifted. I admire her very much," he says. "What little fame I've enjoyed, is great, but I wouldn't want much more. Her lifestyle, it's tremendous pressure, and she deals with it." No further information on his private life is forthcoming, except that he was married, briefly, in his twenties, and has no children.

His fame can be ascribed, in more or less equal parts, to the success of *Green River Rising*, on both sides of the Atlantic, to the Madonna liaison, and to his membership of a new generation of writers whose looks are being used to sell their work. He says: "I don't feel pressured. I appreciate the extra attention it got the book. Most Calvin Klein models now wouldn't have got a job advertising brooms 20 years ago. It's so variable, what people find attractive."

Willocks' first novel, *Bad City Blues*, which bombed, is now being reissued, hence this interview. He has written three in all, and is thinking about a fourth, but most of the past two years has been taken up writing the screenplay for *Green River Rising* for Warner Brothers. "I've done about 25 versions," Alan Pakula (*All the President's Men*) is to produce, no director

or stars have been hired yet. "My favourite actors are all 80 or dead," says Willocks. "Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Paul Newman."

He has been going over to Hollywood regularly. "LA is not that interesting. It's a business town. They go to bed at 10.30 to get up to make their calls." Was he expecting party time? "I always had hopes in that respect. But I was also aware the good times were over. It may be a myth but my impression was that in the Eighties they'd say 'Here's your hotel room, here's the whores, the drugs, whatever else. Now everyone is in a 12-step programme.'"

The most interesting thing about Willocks is not, however, either Hollywood or Madonna. Nor is it *Green River Rising*. Willocks read Alistair MacLean and Sven Hassel as a teenager and his own bestseller is no more nor less than a fine plot-driven yarn (*Bad City Blues* is actually a deeper book). The interesting thing is that he is a bricklayer's son who became a doctor. "Hollywood is a very highly strung place, but I never get that anxious. Compared to worrying about whether you've killed someone or not, it doesn't matter."

He trained in medicine at University College Hospital in London, began but did not complete postgraduate psychiatry training, and still works — despite the sort of wealth accumulated from 70,000-plus paperback sales and the film option — part-time in a drugs clinic near Victoria station. He is not, as the tabloids persuaded themselves during the Madonna episode, "a real-life Cracker", but he has been trained to think intelligently about human motivations.

He is originally from Stalybridge, just east of Manchester. He had a happy childhood — "I always liked my family, admired them" — passed the 11-plus and went to

a Catholic grammar school. He wrote westerns, but gave up at 15 to concentrate on A levels. The writing re-emerged after years of study as a way of channelling and controlling his energy and impulses. He says: "If I hadn't been blessed with this education, these intellectual tools, I'd be a complete lunatic. I'd just be seething." As it is, he says his writing allows him — and his readers — "to experience alternative versions of ourselves."

It was as a student that he learnt karate. "I was attracted to — all these things sound naïf — a level of manliness.

From my background, where men were men and worked hard... I was spending ten years in a library. I was always — ashamed is the wrong word — but I felt that tug. I do believe the demolition of the pride an individual can take in being a man has got something to do with the breakdown of social order."

He is attracted to the masculine code attached to the martial arts. "I think we need to be pushed to create ourselves. There is a laxity, an emotional and intellectual laxity, in contemporary times. In America, they've been training

the population for 30 years to be emotionally undisciplined." He mentions Oprah Winfrey. "Lo and behold, the occasions on which men shoot their wives have trebled. 'Bang! I've expressed myself.' Freud was always careful to point out that repression was a good thing, crucial to civilisation."

Taking his jacket off and bunching up his biceps obligingly for photographs, he says, resigned and self-mocking: "The things we do for commerce." There's a contradiction here. He talks intelligently and self-effacingly. He is affable. His medical work

demands respect. A lot of what he says about masculinity is true. Yet here he is, giving us the very shirt off his back.

I get the impression he's going along with this image-building because someone — Madonna? — has convinced him that it is the modern, sussed way to behave, but that one day he may look back at the chest 'n' vest routine and regret it. He'll be 40 in October, after all, and there comes a time in a man's life when the scorpions and the phoenixes should be put away. ● *Bad City Blues* is published by Jonathan Cape, £9.99

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

At Buckingham Palace the Queen's Gallery displays its stunning Mughal art
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



THEATRE

Alec McCowen meets Michael Gambon in a new political play, *Tom and Clem*, at the Aldwych
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



RECITAL

Fast-rising British tenor Ian Bostridge sings late Schubert songs at the Queen Elizabeth Hall
CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



POP

Jane Birkin brings a celebration of Serge Gainsbourg's music to the Festival Hall
GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

Now that the Authorized Version of the Bible has been published as a World's Classic in paperback, it has sadly become a secular text. But let us seize the moment. Nothing now should prevent its being fully reintroduced into our life through the schools — as a compulsory set book. That is what classics are for.

This magnificent version has withered in the churches through a combination of tin ears, fashionable short-termism and a profound lack of cultural conservatism also known as a mewing political correctness which will go as fast as it will come, but meanwhile has done much damage.

Over the past few decades the Bible has been seen increasingly in schools as representing just one of the many religions now to be found in this country, despite the fact that the overwhelming mass of people here come out of some form of Christian belief. But now it can be released from that limitation. That is what a classic does.

Chapter and verse for our children's lessons

So it can be brought back to us and acknowledged for what it is — Our book. That Our is all of us who live here, wherever we came from.

"The Bible is the basic book of our civilisation," the new editors of this bouncy paperback truthfully proclaim. "It holds a unique and exclusive status, not merely in terms of the religious history of the Western world, but also in literary history and even in what might be called our collective cultural psyche." That should surely clinch the argument so bitterly lost in the naves of Britain.

The editors point out how the Bible has helped to make us the way we are. They discuss the idea that we have about there being a meaning behind all phenomena. This is fundamentally a religious view of life as expressed in the Bible. Yet it has spread throughout

our culture. Newton, for instance, who devoted more time to religion than to science, used his religious bent for meaning to explore the Universe which became and in many ways remains Newtonian — but in his view, still under God.

The editors say that storytelling itself, especially the telling of multiple and parallel stories, has been reinforced and directed by this 1611 translation made by 47 scholars at the command of a Scottish, homosexual, anti-smoking, bloodsport-praising, scholarly king. Surely all this should shake it free from the anti-religious bias which has so idiosyncratically quashed it? Since the decline of its use, even in its ancient ecclesiastical fastnesses there have been lamentations but precious little action.

Opponents have been characterised as tiresome blimps or mere addicts of nostalgia.



For a while it looked too late to make any real counterattack, especially in a society which seems at present to duck the power and responsibility of its own history and believes, ignorantly, that

progress consists only in looking to the future.

But inevitably, as so often before, we will begin to define ourselves again. Sometimes our self-definitions have been arrogant and even cruel; but more often than most countries' these definitions have also been liberating, decent and intelligent. And we redefine ourselves, always, through a renaissance, looking back to men, women, battles, inventions and achievements among which are books — the greatest of all, *pace* Shakespeare, being the Authorized Version.

And now that it is a World's Classic there is nothing to stop us from bringing it back to form the basis of whatever new world arises after May 1.

Let us take a very obvious point to do with the language of the Bible itself. We have not only

absorbed rhythms and phrases — "skin of my teeth", "fatted calf", "inherit the earth" — that will linger, we have also before us a teaching resource of unmatched range.

Let us look at a very obvious example — Psalm 23. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." The beauty and pulse of the prose is enough reason alone for this to reach the ears of every child in this country at least once every two or three months.

But inside that are the ideas: the idea that somebody can find comfort and protection in a superior force — which, in the religion that is still that of the overwhelming majority in this country, is the Christian God. The valley of the

shadow of death as both a metaphor and an introduction to the finite nature of life could not be a better trigger for young people, whose notion of that state is rather abstract. The idea of a rod and a staff could prick a continuity which could be a comfort for many, so that they learn that the place they live in has a past which can be deeply supporting. And, of course, teachers could then go on to turn talk about David or the idea of praising God or gods into many a discussion.

It seems that it is too late to save this King James version for the churches. But now it can surely be taught to everyone from whatever background with the greatest profit to them and to all our futures. So let's authorise the Authorized Version in every school in the land. Parts of it to be read every morning in assembly (for a start). That would be the real beginning of a renaissance and bring us back, not to basics, but to the real foundations.

THEATRE: Guilt is the theme of an unconvincing Canadian work. Plus Robert Young's unsettling new play; and a royal allegory

THIS month four leading theatre critics have put themselves in the firing line by turning director for a short season at the Battersea Arts Centre called *The Critics — Up for Review*. So it seemed only fitting to

invite a leading director to turn critic. Here Sir Peter Hall reviews the directorial debut of *Times* critic Jeremy Kingston. Below, Benedict Nightingale judges another *Times* critic, James Christopher

Women talking to themselves

First, the play: a woman of 70 in a home for the elderly finds herself having an intricate conversation with her dead sister and four other women. They represent herself at 30, 40, 50 and 60. They reveal improbable difficulties.

The structure is schematic and, since none of us at 70 will know what it's like to talk to ourselves at 30, Michel Tremblay's play often seems strained and unrecognisable. Memory is just not that precise. Albertine's miserable past is slowly revealed to suit the needs of the dramatist rather than those of the characters.

There's a husband who was a war hero as well as a morose: a daughter who has been sexually hyperactive since she was 11, and who needs a bloody end; and a lunatic son who has to be put away. Yes, you've guessed the play's theme is *Guilt* — or rather, the Rejection of *Guilt* when it interferes with survival. I didn't believe a word of it.

Now to the event. This was no ordinary play: it was part of *The Critics — Up for Review*, a season at the Battersea Arts Centre. The *Times* critic, Jeremy Kingston, decided for reasons I cannot fathom to direct this play. And I, alas, agreed to try to review it.

I thought it would be fun — a sort of world-turned-upside-down experiment that might raise awareness and get space for the theatre. I'd no sooner said "yes" than I noticed thin-tipped disapproval from a few colleagues. And Michael Coveney, a critic who is admittedly well known for being shrill, seemed to go quite beyond himself. "Will I review these

Albertine in
Five Times
BAC

shows? I don't review amateur theatre," he snuffed. "Where is everybody's sense of humour?" I thought.

Nonetheless, I wasn't so sure I'd been right to participate when the end of the performance was reached. "This was a highly serious piece of work. For the hour-and-a-half of the play, nothing had mattered to the actors or the critic/director but the work: it was their complete obsession. And the fact that I didn't like it and had to say so gave me no pleasure at all.

It is well put together, well cast,

brilliantly designed (by Ti Green), and well lit by Ben Ormerod. There are two highly talented performances by Angela Pleasence, whose crystal clarity I regularly admire, and by Frances Cuka, whose emotions are always wonderfully un-English.

In spite of all this, I would only give Kingston five out of ten. It is well produced, but not well directed. Some of this may admittedly be due to the unremitting intensity of the dramatist. But the director could have helped this by varying the tone.

Opportunities for true comedy when the memories contradict (very clear in the play) are neglected; and the pace and mood are too even and predictable. It is a technical failing. The actors are clearly committed to the piece and to their director. But he has not used this in order to orchestrate their work and maintain the audience's interest. The play would have been more accessible had it been less strident.

With great regret, then, I would advise Mr Kingston not to give up his night job. And I'm sure he'll give the same advice to me. It honestly wasn't worth all the effort.

PETER HALL



Jacquetta May (rear), Angela Pleasence and Barbara Lott share a miserable past

Deft, daft and decadent

You could claim that our real-life royal dramas of recent years are morality tales in their own right. Witold Gombrowicz's *Iwona, Princess of Burgundia* was written in 1938 as a "misanthropic fable" with a court of degenerates as its convenient centre. However, the play is silly rather than solemn, and while Gombrowicz aims at some pendulous targets (conformity, vanity and human viciousness), his weapon is a form of heightened ridicule.

Andrzej Sadowski's adaptation for Scarlet Theatre conveys the due measure of pomp, but the production is notable

Princess Sharon
Purcell Room

for its commitment to a sharply mannered physical performance. Director Katarzyna Deszcz has imported a precise and lurid movement style which suits the material, in this instance high-stepped and scuttled over by the nine performers. The execution is often enjoyably deft and daft.

Sharon is a young woman of plain appearance and remote behaviour, played by Sue Maund. On a whim Philip, the Prince, decides he will marry her, a decision which throws the court into turmoil. The cast conjure up an assembly of inveterate toadies and schemers, whose sycophancy is embodied by their bows and curtsies. To its credit, the production avoids any cheap glances at our own Royal Family. That said, Nigel Piper's music, which sounds like a Greek taverna waltz, creates an inevitable, subliminal reference to the monarchy's Hellenic connection.

The allegorical part of the story is mostly centred on the character of the Prince, played by Eric MacLennan: a trivial young man discovers that decency and integrity are indeed within his orbit, but he rejects them nonetheless. Sadowski provides the set, a clean and simple arrangement, which exemplifies the best of the production: stylistic discipline applied to a drama about irredeemable decadence.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

ANDY LAVENDER

Follow the scent of soles and dreams

So somewhere deep inside you still think of this paper, and its arts department in particular, as a place where venerable gentlemen in frock coats discuss the unities of time, place and action over cups of Earl Grey? Well, go to the BAC and get yourself disabused.

It is the critics from other papers who are directing the mainstream pieces. Anouilh, Strindberg, earlyish Pinter. Our lads are the ones taking the artistic risks. Jeremy Kingston with the rare Tremblay that Peter Hall describes above, James Christopher with the only new play to have found its way into the season the BAC calls *The Critics — Up for Review*.

How successful is Christopher at making the leap from sharpshooter to target or, to be a bit more solemn about his duties, from Jimmy Hill to Arsene Wenger? Well, the first task of any director is of course to choose a play, and, in Robert Young's *Shoe Shop of Desire*, he has picked an odd, unsettling one by a young, untried dramatist: in other words, exactly the sort of piece that fringe houses such as the BAC exist to promote.

The second task is to select the right actors and so orchestrate them that nothing — from the set to their placing onstage to their own inhibitions — prevents them from giving their emotional and intellectual all to the text. Christopher and his admirable four-person cast have not let each other down.

As designed by Simon Vincenzi, the shop of the title consists of three tall, jagged and patently insecure walls of

shoe-boxes. Inside, a cobbler called Sinbad (Jack Carr) toils doggedly away in a leather apron. Upstairs, his wife is dying. In the corner his daughter Lolita (Zoe Telford) lurks beneath sacking.

Then in through the wall, scattering cardboard boxes, crashes Ben Price's Bobby, a slick, insulting young man in a cheap dark suit. Since he is a debt collector with an eviction order in his briefcase, it looks as if we are in for an updated version of a fairy story, or maybe a Victorian melodrama, involving an impoverished bootmaker, his virtuous,

The Shoe Shop
of Desire
BAC

suffering child and a wicked landlord.

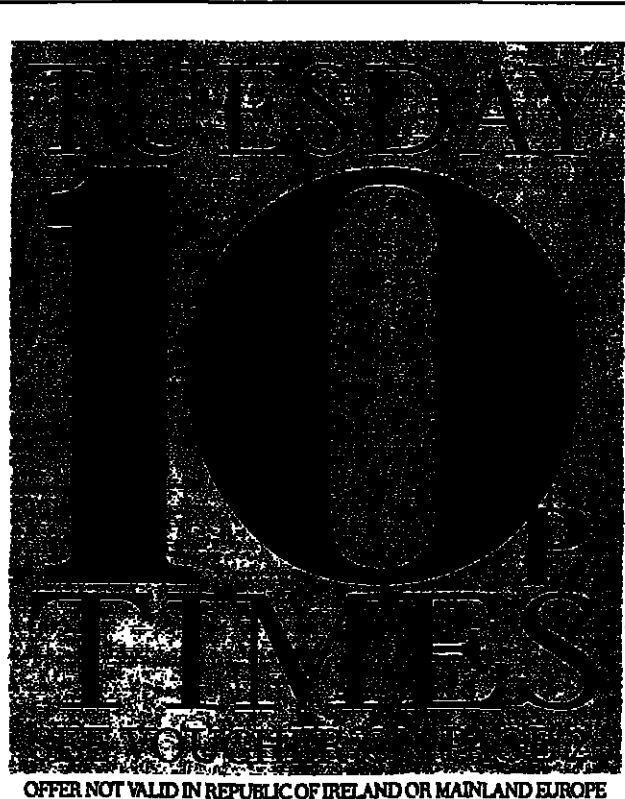
But no fairy godmother comes floating onstage to give us a magic denouement. And although Michael Roberts's landlord looks as if he is on furlough from *Reservoir Dogs*, his motives turn out to be as unpredictable as everyone else's in a play that, as the title indicates, is more about the

hankering of souls than the hammering of soles. Though the language stays incongruously plain, and sometimes gets a bit plonking, the subject is poetic: the suppressed and often contradictory desires that bubble up from the unconscious only in dreams or in hauntingly surreal plays, like this.

By the end, everything seems topsy-turvy. Lolita has evolved from a sad, mute Cinderella through Miss Whiplash to a girl vestigially capable of giving and taking love. A sort of formal masochism has emerged from inside

Bobby's macho swagger. Imagery of dogs recurs. So does prim yet disturbing music. More unusually, so do mentions of strange, ugly smells. I cannot think ofhand of a play in which that most neglected, yet most evocative of senses gets more emphasis.

A weird stench of onions, lilies, bad breath and dirt rises from the text, but not, of course, from the production. You can't expect even the boldest reviewer-director to manage everything.



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Lady in the Dark

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The relic they could not burn

Richard Owen on conspiracy theories about the Turin fire

The force was in the cloth," said Mario Trematore, the apparently level-headed Turin fireman who salvaged the silver box containing the relic shroud from the flames which consumed a quarter of Turin's 15th-century cathedral. "A miracle," said the Pope on his visit to Sarajevo. "A holy icon venerated by so many over the centuries has again been saved from the flames." He was echoed by Cardinal Giovanni Salardini, the Archbishop of Turin, who stood before thousands of other citizens outside the cathedral in the middle of the night with tears streaming from his eyes. Signor Trematore, who smashed the hardened glass surrounding the shroud, has relived his moment of glory again and again in interviews, declaring that God gave him the strength to wield his sledgehammer.

For some Italians, notably the superstitious, the Turin disaster was another pre-millennial warning of doom after the Hale-Bopp comet. But for many, the fact that the shroud survived yet again proved its miraculous powers, and is a sign of hope and faith. For many Roman Catholics around the world, the fact that the shroud was carbon-dated by three reputable laboratories in 1988 and declared to be a medieval fake did not affect its value as an object of veneration. In any case, the science which undermined faith in the relic has also come to its rescue. Some scientists say the fire damage the cloth underwent once before, in 1532 at Chambéry in France, could have altered its carbon composition, making it "seem younger". Other scientists (from Turin, admittedly) say they have found the imprint on the cloth of a coin in use at the time of Christ's death. Moreover, they ask, if it is a fake, or the image of a crucified Templar knight, how could the fakers have known that photography would bring the image to light six centuries later, in 1898?

But the force works both ways: just as there are millions who venerate the shroud as Christ's burial cloth and want to preserve it at all costs, there are others who also believe it is a true relic but want to destroy it. Vittorio Messori, a Turin writer who has studied the shroud and its symbolism closely, said firmly yesterday that the fire in the Guarini chapel was "no accident". There were earlier attempts to set fires in the cathedral in the 1970s and 1980s, mostly — like the latest attack — on a Friday night, the night Christ's body was wrapped in a shroud before the Resurrection. "There is no other object which attracts so much love and so much hate," Signor Messori said. "It has everything — Jesus, the Templars who brought it to Europe, science... an ideal Internet conspiracy subject. In fact the Internet is full of the sick fantasies of people who want to destroy the Shroud."

There is also the Royal connection: when the fire was started, a banquet was being held in the former Savoy palace next door by Gianni Agnelli, the Turin magnate

whose power makes him the present "uncrowned King of Italy", and Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, for Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General. The shroud was held by the Savoy for centuries, and there are still passages linking the palace directly to the Guarini chapel. As if all this were not enough, there is the Albanian connection: Mr Annan is in Italy to give UN blessing to the Italian-led intervention in Albania, Italy's first major military mission since the Second World War. Turin, once the home of the Red Brigades, still harbours a strange breed of anarchists called *autonomi*, who only last Friday demonstrated in their hundreds outside the cathedral and the palace against the departure of Italian troops for Vlore and Tirana. Last December the *autonomi* climbed on to the Cathedral roof — where the fire began this weekend.

"Too many mysteries for one fire," said *Corriere della Sera*. Did a terrorist infiltrate the banquet and sneak off to start the fire? Possibly. But whether the fire was started by an Internet fanatic, an anarchist or a simple short circuit, it also — more prosaically — demonstrates once again the vulnerability of Italy's art treasures to accident and neglect.

Last year the great *L*oque cathedral in Noto, Sicily, collapsed. Memories are still vivid of the fire which destroyed Venice's La Fenice opera house in January last year. In Venice, too, the fire began in the roof and the disaster was at first attributed to an electrical fault during renovation. But the preliminary inquiry report in February pointed the finger at arsonists acting for Mafia-linked building firms who were behind schedule and about to face huge financial penalties.

Walter Veltroni, the young and energetic Deputy Prime Minister who holds the culture portfolio, has pumped cash into the arts and antiquities by encouraging private investment and using lottery funds. In Rome, pedestrians can at last walk a traffic-free Appian Way at weekends, and this week many of Italy's great monuments are being opened to the public free of charge in a bid to persuade Italians to care more for their — and our — priceless heritage.

But lack of resources over many years has left palaces, churches and archaeological treasures vulnerable to thieves, arsonists and Mafia criminals. No lessons appear to have been learnt from La Fenice: the fire alarms at Turin, as at La Fenice, had been "temporarily turned off" because of restoration work — yet there were temporary kitchens for the banquet, hot air heaters, and the cathedral and palace were both festooned with electrical cables. "A black day for Italy" was the judgement of Federico Zeri, the art historian: "An immense disaster, the result of sheer stupidity, yet no one is ever fired for incompetence. I sometimes think Italy deserves such tragedies... how big a shock do we need before we do something?"

In Somerset, almost all seats are marginals and the three main parties can take nothing for granted

How the wavering West may be won

In Hong Kong, the British general election seemed a long way away: it was certainly not making the front page of the *South China Morning Post*. Yet one Somerset constituency result, the Bath defeat of Chris Patten, has proved very important for Hong Kong's history. Coming back to Somerset, I find extraordinary crosscurrents of opinion. The polls may be able to predict the national result, but of Somerset's nine seats, only two can yet be predicted with confidence and seven must still be regarded as marginal in one way or another.

The only two safe seats in Somerset are Woodspring and Yeovil. Woodspring is held for the Conservatives by Dr Liam Fox, a rising junior minister, with at the last election a vote nearly double that of the Liberal Democrat who came second. It can be marked down as a Conservative hold. Yeovil is Paddy Ashdown's seat; he will hold that, though the small Labour share of the vote will probably rise quite sharply. Both Liam Fox and Paddy Ashdown are hardworking and well-known constituency members. That counts.

Then there come two seats which are not by any means safe, but can be regarded as probable Conservative victories. Both have good Conservative former ministers as their sitting members. My elder son Thomas, who is a councillor for Bath and North East Somerset, is working for David Heathcoat-Amory in Wells. His first impressions are that Labour, which comes a poor third with only 10 per cent of the vote, is taking support both from the Conservatives and, probably to a larger degree, from the Liberal Democrats. David Heathcoat-Amory's Euro-sceptical views seem to be popular on the doorstep. The Wells vote is very stable: Heathcoat-Amory got 28,624 in 1987 and 28,620 in 1992. It is unlikely to change this time.

Bridgwater is Tom King's seat. At the last election he had a comfortable majority of nearly 10,000, with the Liberal Democrat coming second, but with quite a substantial Labour vote. The town of Bridgwater, which is small and has seldom in its history been prosperous, had a traditional Labour vote; in the rural hinterland the Liberal Democrats have become somewhat unpopular on local issues, including hunting. No one could be sure how to cast a tactical vote to get Tom King out. I would not be surprised if Labour got back into second place but without winning the seat. Bridgwater is a three-way marginal with any result possible, but the Conservatives are the likely winners.

From there on it becomes more difficult. Bath and North East Somerset is a new unitary authority; on the council the Liberal Democrats are the largest party, Labour comes second and the Conservatives are still substantial third. There are two parliamentary constituencies, Bath itself and Wansdyke, which was Jack Aspinwall's seat until he retired. Bath is now a super-marginal. It was won by the Liberals in 1992, but redistribution has added predominantly Conservative villages on the edge of the city.

The Liberal majority over Chris Patten was 3,768 but the redistribution is reckoned to be worth about 4,000 votes to the Conservatives. In 1992 the Labour vote was

squeezed in the successful campaign to defeat Chris Patten. All the indications are that Tony Blair's leadership is pulling in new Labour voters in Bath and elsewhere. Again, as in Bridgwater, the Liberal Democrat performance in local government is probably a marginal vote-loser. Bath is a cliffhanger, but could possibly be a Conservative gain by a few hundred votes.

In Wansdyke, Labour is the challenger. In 1992 Jack Aspinwall had the very comfortable majority of

The remaining three seats are all Conservative marginals with the Liberal Democrats coming second. In Somerset and Frome, the Conservative majority is 7.4 per cent. In Taunton it is 5.2 per cent. In Weston-super-Mare, once one of the safest Conservative seats in the country, it is 8.5 per cent. In each case the Labour vote had already been squeezed to below 13 per cent. All three seats will be decided by the balance between tactical voting for the Liberal Democrats and the pull of Labour's national campaign.

In each constituency there are a number of professing voters who will certainly vote Liberal Democrat. This will not only be tactical voting. Just as the Labour Party is losing some votes to the SNP in Scotland because Tony Blair has moved so far to the right, so in Somerset there are Liberal Democrat converts who see new Labour and the Conservatives as almost indistinguishable Thatcherite parties.

"Which twin is the Tory?" The Liberal Democrat campaign theme that Labour cannot improve social services on the Conservative tax base is winning support.

In these constituencies there will be Labour switches to Liberal Democrat by *Guardian*-type readers who preferred John Smith to Tony Blair. They believe in a higher marginal rate of income tax, they oppose privatisation, they want more public expenditure, particularly on the Nat-

ional Health Service and education. These people are, however, outnumbered by *Sun*-type readers who also want to get the Tories out but see Tony Blair as much more convincing than Paddy Ashdown. There are more C2, D and E left-of-centre voters than A, B and C1. There are more *Sun* readers than *Guardian* readers in Somerset and Frome, as elsewhere. In these seats Labour is the real threat to the Liberal Democrats, and I think that Tony Blair will win enough votes in each constituency to keep the Tories in.

Weston-super-Mare is a special case. Margaret Daly, the Conservative candidate, is a defeated MEP and is about as Euro-fanatical as Edwina Currie. Her Conservative constituents are much more Euro-sceptical, as are a majority of Somerset Tories. Weston-super-Mare has a large retired community for whom the Battle of Britain is still very much a living part of their personal history. There may be above-average support for the Referendum or Independence Party candidates. Weston-super-Mare is probably the most marginal of these three very marginal seats, but even so, the Conservative majority may be just large enough to hold on.

In all, Somerset seems to have one safe Liberal Democrat seat, one safe Conservative seat, two probable Conservative seats, and five which cannot at this stage be predicted with any confidence. I do not think this puts the result of the national election in doubt: Labour is going to win. But with seven of these nine seats uncertain, and five of them genuinely unpredictable, the range of possible national outcomes must still be very wide.

On May 1, the Somerset results could be anything from eight Conservative seats down to one: Labour could win two or none; the Liberal Democrats could win seven or one. It will be an exciting election night.

Wetter the devil you know

However remote, their chances, the Tories appear united. But what if they win?

The Tories have had one big success in the campaign. They have avoided talking about what might happen in a fifth term. The election has so far mainly been about whether Labour can now be trusted in government. The Tories have had to deal with recurrent "sleaze" stories, but what they might do over the next five years has largely been ignored.

Of course, virtually no one thinks the Tories will be re-elected, despite misleading headlines focusing on sharp drops in the Labour lead. What matters is underlying shares of the vote, and the shift here is less dramatic. As last week's MORI poll for *The Times* suggested, the Tories are rising from the narrow band around 30 per cent where they had been for 18 months. But the movement is so small, and the amount of ground the Tories need to recover before May is so large, that Labour is still heading for a clear, if not landslide, victory.

The concentration on Labour suits the Tories. It has been a central part of their "better the devil you know" strategy to question whether "new" Labour can be trusted. Last January, Danny Finkelstein, the director of the Conservative Research Department, and Andrew Cooper, his deputy, wrote a strategy paper entitled "The danger is in the detail", arguing that while Tony Blair was able to deflect broader challenges about the meaning of "new" Labour, he was more vulnerable to precise questioning about inconsistencies in policy on the unions, privatisation and taxes. So it has proved in Labour's discomfiture over the past few days, resulting in yesterday's "Blair takes charge" move.



But is the "devil you know" an accurate projection of what a re-elected Tory government would be like? The Tory manifesto offered fresh ideas — Peter Lilley's pensions plan, transferring personal allowances between married couples, the break-up of public housing estates — to counter the view that the Government is stale. Nonetheless, John Major sought to create a safe, more-of-the-same impression. This does not mean the status quo, since social security changes and the dismantling of local authority control of schools would continue in a fifth term. But, equally, a re-elected Major government would not dramatically roll back the size of the state or introduce deep tax cuts which many on the free-market Right would like. The manifesto referred just to keeping spending at less than 40 per cent

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

national income, rather than aiming for, say, 35 per cent. And a 20p basic rate was described as an "aim", while the Right's desire for the abolition of capital gains and inheritance taxes was watered down by the Treasury to just reducing their burden.

But as the Institute for Fiscal Studies argued last week, published spending plans, accepted by Labour, are very tight and cannot be achieved without cuts in public services. A re-elected Tory Government would probably continue the recent combination of squeezing here and there and cutting back some social security entitlements, but being forced to accept some rise in spending above current plans, and therefore no real reduction in the tax burden. Despite a

further shift to private provision, the health service and schools would remain free to users under Mr Major. Labour claims about the imposition of VAT on food or charges for visits to doctors are groundless scare stories.

The question is whether this approach would be sustained if there was a change in Tory leadership. At present the party wants to project a centrist image, as shown by who appears most often at press conferences alongside Mr Major. The prominence of Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke is partly to reinforce the sure, tested and trustworthy message. You know where you are with old Hezza, and Ken has delivered the economic goods. But both are bogey figures for a large section of the Tory party. Despite being the most successful member of

the Cabinet, Mr Clarke is generally seen as an also-ran in any leadership contest because of his strong pro-European views, while Mr Heseltine is regarded as an elder statesman enjoying his last hurrah as a brilliant campaigner. The other most frequent attendees at news conferences have been Major allies such as Ian Lang and Gillian Shephard.

By contrast, the rising figures on the Right — Michael Howard, Michael Portillo and Peter Lilley — have made only fleeting appearances at the London news conferences. Mr Portillo has, admittedly, been a frequent broadcaster, but in his ultra-loyalist mode (for once, easily eclipsing John Redwood). Other usually vocal figures on the Right have been largely silent. Many are waiting for May 1, and the expected defeat, to attack the current leadership and to urge a return to fundamentals (back to basics being rather discredited) on the size of the state, taxes and, of course, Europe. That is where the carefully cultivated safe-and-sure image has been most strained, with open defiance of the wait-and-see policy on the single currency by so many Tory candidates and, more deviously, by a number of ministers.

We will soon be hearing more of the Tory plans on education, law and order, unions and public services. But on the issue about which many Tories feel most passionately — Europe and the single currency — Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke no longer speak for the bulk of the party. They are the Tories' most acceptable, and reassuring, public faces during an election, but for how much longer? On Friday, Mr Major declined to say whether Mr Clarke would be reappointed Chancellor if the Tories win, despite his symbolic importance for the One Nation, pro-European Tories.

The simmering tensions within the Tory party would not disappear even with victory. The direction of domestic policy might continue as in recent years, but the balance of the party would shift — against the likes of Mr Heseltine and Mr Clarke. They are figures of the party's past and present, not its future.

Party politic

THERE is a consolation prize for John Major if he fails to be returned as Prime Minister next month. He has received one of the most treasured invitations at the Cannes Film Festival — to his great friend Shirley Bassey's 60th birthday party.

The official answer from Huntington has been no, for an affirmative response would only suggest that Major accepts he is going to lose. But I understand that if defeat comes, he could well change his mind and head off to the

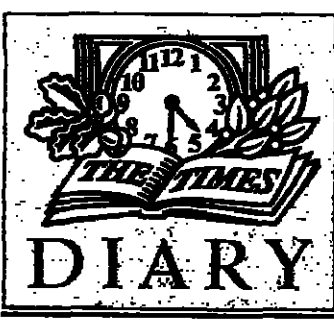
south of France with Norma to enjoy the glamorous night on May 10 on board the yacht *Penelope*, which belongs to millionaire Henrik Jönsson.

Prince Edward is expected to attend, while Prince Andrew and Sir Denis and Lady Thatcher have been invited to join 120 other guests who will be flown in from as far afield as California and Cardiff. Shirley Bassey's home town.

The Majors still retain fond memories of the Conservative Party's winter ball this year, where a



Lady sings for the blues: chanteuse Bassey with admirer Major



scantily-clad Bassey gyrated like a Spice Girl in front of the Prime Minister as she sang *Big Spender*. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, appeared so shell-shocked by her performance that he later dropped the bottle of whisky he won on the tombola. He has not been invited.

Card trick

OVER in the Republic, the Irish may be trying to woo Labour. But in Camden, north London, they spit when the names of the party's local candidates, Frank Dobson and Glenda Jackson, are mentioned.

Dobson and Jackson are accused of shunning the Irish community after turning down requests to attend an election debate at the Camden Irish Forum last week. "We are

deeply angered," said a Forum spokesman. "It is their duty to debate local issues as our elected members."

The Tories and the Lib Dems put up a candidate apiece, so organisers placed cardboard cut-outs in the Labour candidates' places. "The Dobson cut-out had one more dimension than the man himself," said one audience participant, who said the episode smacked of the day Roy Hattersley failed to show up on the BBC's *Have I Got News For You*, and they placed a dot of hard in his stead.

● Tony Blair's biographer, the journalist Jon Sopel, has become the pin-up of John Major's British Midlands flight which tours the country with the journalists back in cargo class. The flight crew, report colleagues, are so taken with his dashing dark looks that one of them leaves cards of admiration on his seat, signed only with a print of a lipstick kiss. "It's baffling him," says one. "He has no idea if the messages are from a stewardess or from a steward."

Limp excuse

AFTER the Conservative Jerry Hayes took a punch in the jaw canvassing last week and ended up in

hospital, another Tory has been forced to bow out temporarily while on the stump. Robert Vaudry, the former private secretary to Sir Edward Heath and candidate for Leyton and Wanstead in east London, collapsed while canvassing outside an underground station. "My leg just shot through with pain. I had an infection," he said. "I was carted off to hospital where I waited for four hours before being seen by a doctor." Tomorrow it's back to the streets — on crutches.



"I was disqualified for intimidation"

● There is a remarkable eclecticism to the activities of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. This weekend found the novelist and Tory morale-booster on the A418 to Swansea, directing motorway traffic. Archer stepped into his new role when a van and a lorry collided in front of his BMW as he travelled to South Wales on the election trail. "I just stood in the middle of the road and took over," he explained. "Both drivers were hurt and there was a danger that the ambulances would not have been able to get through." He will be pleased to learn that his initiative earned him admirers among the South Wales police force. "Lord Archer did a fine job," a spokesman concluded. "He acted like a paid-up member of the force."

Girl power

AFTER the successful entry into the political fray of Martin Bell's photogenic daughter Melissa in Tatton, the Referendum Party in Berwick-upon-Tweed has taken a leaf out of the anti-corruption candidate's book.

Ned Lambton, the party's candidate for Berwick and heir to the former Tory Minister Lord Lambton, has enlisted the support of his wife, 26-year-old Catherine Lambton.

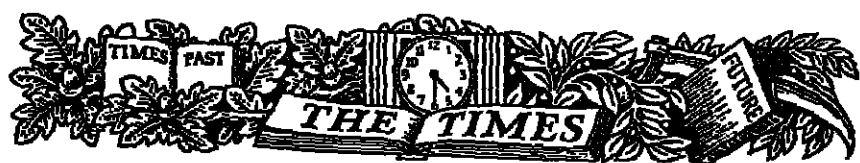


Roped in: Catherine Lambton

For the purpose of the campaign, they have abandoned their titles. Lord and Lady Durham.

Despite Lambton's success so far with the local fishing community — who detest Europe's quotas — Catherine is joining immediately to boost her chances. She intends to abandon her job in London with the Lebanese publisher Naim Attallah, who has been weeping quietly ever since hearing of her planned departure.

P.H.S



TIME TO TURN ON

A long election campaign reaches its most significant stage

Lady Thatcher has never hidden a complete contempt for consensus. But her comments yesterday that "three weeks is quite long enough" for an election because otherwise "people get bored" will meet with almost universal approval. Nor do her observations look misplaced. Despite some imaginative innovations, the broadcasters are attracting fewer viewers to their coverage on this occasion. The BBC, which introduced an extended *Nine O'Clock News* from the outset of the contest, seems to have suffered for its public-spirited decision.

The length of the campaign must be partly responsible. The political parties have a limited supply of policy announcements to distribute over a much longer period. Most of the main personalities and manifesto pledges are already rather familiar. Voters are now more sceptical about promises from all politicians. As a result there are some moments when photo-opportunities and soundbites are all that the party machines can offer. The media is rightly obliged to record the action regardless. Novelty and controversy have rarely been abundant.

The six-week slog, though, is only one reason why voters might be rationing their attention. The similarities between the two main parties must mean that many people are neither fanatical nor fearful about the eventual outcome. Their relative relaxation might permit a more selective attitude towards the election. That in itself could be considered a beneficial development. It is one for which Lady Thatcher herself bears considerable responsibility. The large Labour lead recorded in all opinion surveys may have made this battle less absorbing than the cliff-hanger contest five years ago.

This has been an exceptionally long Parliament and pre-campaign as well as an extended final battle. There are millions who, unfortunately for John Major, made up their minds some years ago and are not inclined to mull the matter further. Such citizens are far from uninterested in the

ballot box. But they do not feel the need for saturation politics. Without a really dramatic event, this six-week show cannot shake their intentions. That is a perfectly legitimate position to take in a democracy.

There are now 17 days to run before Britain makes its collective choice. If this were a campaign of conventional duration that point would not be distant from the outset. For all the indifferent reviews this election has rightly received so far there is every reason to believe the remaining weeks will be considerably more exciting. Although the parties are closer than before on many issues there are also important differences which have been emerging. Europe, which politicians from all sides probably wanted to suppress, will take its proper prominence.

The opinion polls, although solid for the Opposition, have shown some signs of unpredictability. The next seven days will indicate whether there is real substance in this tentative Tory revival. If the Labour margin shrinks then national attention will sharpen. Tony Blair is about to discover how right Harold Wilson was when he said that a week was a long time in politics. Many of those who are now certain about how their vote will be cast may yet find that events oblige them to reconsider.

We have reached the point where the contest could come alive and really engage the British public. Nothing would encourage and extend that process more than the first televised debate between the party leaders. Mr Major and Mr Blair would serve both their private and the public interest if they accepted our offer to provide the forum. If proceedings to date have bored some and turned off others that is because certain figures have been so cautious and defensive. The time has come to stress the cut and thrust that should be the essence of elections. As Lady Thatcher's tenure showed, there is far more to politics than merely changing the colour of the Downing Street curtains.

INDIA'S NADIR

The country teeters as the Congress Party rots

In its 50 years as the capital of a democratic India, Delhi has often played host to venal politicians, vulgar fixers and unprincipled satraps. It has seen frequent turmoil in government, treachery in office, and pandemonium in parliament. Yet nothing in the years since the country's independence can match the events of this last week. No depth has been as low, no nadir as bewildering.

As our Delhi correspondent writes today, India has begun to look for a new Government, only ten months after the country's last general elections. The Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda, leader of a rough-hewn but increasingly effective coalition, was forced to resign on Friday after he lost a needless vote of confidence in Parliament. This was caused by the sudden and dubious decision of the minority Congress Party, driven by the hubris of its leader, Sitaram Kesri, to withdraw its support from Mr Deve Gowda.

Why did Mr Kesri topple the Government? Depressingly, there can only be one answer: because he wanted to be Prime Minister himself. He will not, of course, achieve that ambition, as he has neither the numbers in Parliament nor, now, the political credibility to do so, but his act of singular over-ambition threatens to derail the country at a most fragile time in its history.

India should now be focussing on its economic reforms, its pressing social and religious tensions, and its peace talks with Pakistan. There had, until recently, been encouraging developments in all of these areas. This vast nation had seemed poised to fulfill its great potential. Instead, its politicians will now haggle with each other — not in smoke-filled rooms, this being India, but with cash-filled briefcases — in search of a workable coalition of uncertain ideology and mercurial principle. If the search fails, as is not improbable, the country will face the prospect of another sapping and expensive election, costing the impoverished Indian taxpayer £300 million to organise.

India does not need another election, just as it did not need a new Government. Ironically, if one were to be held, the Congress Party would face an almost total rout. That, of course, would be no more than it deserves. The party of India's freedom movement, and of most of its post-independence Governments, is today a tainted rabble. It has no leaders of stature, no consistent programme, no respectable principles and very little popular support. Its present poisons its past, and there would be no cause for mourning if it transpires that Mr Kesri's undignified grab for power has effectively killed the party off.

The immediate task is to ensure that chaos does not reign for long in the Lok Sabha, India's lower house, and that a coalition is cobbled together capable of putting into effect the country's ground-breaking 1997-98 budget. There are early indications that India's political parties, for all their squabbling, might be willing to put differences to one side and vote to pass the budget later this month. Such co-operation could serve as a template for a durable multi-party administration that removed the need for fresh elections. That is the only good news to emerge from Delhi this week.

ENDS AND MEANS

Vote Goldsmith to evict Mellor

It can be fatal in politics to elevate the means above the end. By making a fetish of nationalisation and state control rather than looking at how best to achieve progressive ends past Labour governments wasted their energies in office and made office itself less likely. The criticism that was levelled at Harold Wilson's Labour Party could now be directed at the man he knighted as one of his last acts in office. Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, which held its first rally of the campaign yesterday at the Alexandra Palace, has not yet had the impact it might. It has, unfortunately, elevated the means, a referendum, above the end, a new relationship with the rest of Europe.

Yet Sir James himself has done democracy a service by ensuring a fuller debate on the most important issue facing the country at this election. It is important that his voice is this muted after May 1. Last week, *The Times* argued that Parliament would be an impoverished place without the re-election of Norman Lamont and Liz Lynne. There are other individuals, of all parties, whom we feel would enrich politics if they were elected. It is in the interests of pluralism that diverse voices and endangered arguments are heard in the next Parliament. For that reason, *The Times* hopes that Sir James Goldsmith takes his place in the Commons.

Sir James's opponent, David Mellor, has derisively instructed the billionaire to "stick to his day job". It is advice he would have been better following himself. Few MPs can

spare the time, as Mr Mellor does, to host radio phone-ins, write for a variety of journals and act as a consultant to arms companies and others. Most MPs concentrate on representing their constituents and scrutinising legislation. Given the reluctance that Mr Mellor shows to devote more of his time to the Commons, the people of Putney would be doing him a kindness if they relieved him altogether of the responsibility of having to turn up.

Sir James, like Mr Mellor, may be a wealthy man but he is spending his money in the interests of the democratic process. He has not tried, like other wealthy men, to buy influence for himself but rather has attempted to restore some influence over Britain's destiny to its people. By his intervention he has already nudged both Labour and Tories into promising a referendum on entry to a single currency.

Sir James insists that opposing a single currency is fighting integration on too narrow a front. He believes that a wider plebiscite is required to enable Britain to fight effectively for a Europe of nation states. A referendum on Maastricht could have been a brake on integration but the battle has shifted. Other countries are determined to pursue policies which no British plebiscite will influence. What is required now is not a referendum on the past, but a cool determination of British interests in the future and a vigorous pursuit of them in every forum. Sir James would be well-equipped to play his part in that process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Election 97: small firms, immigration and Lords reform

From the Editor of Small Business News

Sir, The letter you published today from five small businessmen, declaring their support for the Labour Party, says that they are associated with 79 others — 84 in total. I suspect that at least 840,000 other small businesses might take a different view.

Perhaps your correspondents are too young to remember the conditions for small businesses under Labour up until 1979. As, I and my wife started our small business just as Wilson and then Callaghan managed to take inflation up to 28 per cent, interest rates to 15.5 per cent, and top rates of taxation to 98 per cent. I couldn't get a phone line to start my own business from the nationalised BT for two years because they "didn't have any lines available". Ye gods, that era was a nightmare.

The current Cabinet may have its shortcomings, but it contains 11 people with real experience of industry, commerce, finance and economics. The Shadow Cabinet includes nine who were college, polytechnic, or junior university lecturers — not a professor or headmaster in sight — and not one with direct experience of the economy.

I have just completed an interview with the Prime Minister, to be published next week, on the subject of small businesses. I can assure your readers that his understanding of the small business sector is not just sympathetic, as you would expect from a son of a small businessman, but that he is fully conversant with the requirements of stability, low taxation and a reduction in bureaucracy.

More than one million new businesses have flourished since 1979; inflation and interest rates are as low as I can remember. I know where my cross and that of vast numbers of other businessmen will be going, and it is not to a media-driven egocentric who cannot even sustain a policy commitment for a week.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR J. A. BELL,
Editor, *Small Business News*,
Curzon House,
Church Road, Windlesham, Surrey.
April 11.

From Mr R. M. Parcell

Sir, Bishop Joe Aldred of the Black and White Christian Partnership and four other church leaders (letter, April 4) urge political parties to do or say nothing in the election campaign which may stir up racial hatred or lead to racial prejudice. Fair enough. But the signatories seem to be advocating in effect a gag on any discussion of immigration policy, however temperately and rationally discussed. If so, this is both undemocratic and in the longer run probably unhelpful to decent race relations.

You report (April 9) Mr Michael Howard as saying that strict immigration controls go hand in hand with better race relations. A view I believe to be widely accepted by many immigrants themselves. Rising numbers tend to increase unemployment amongst some immigrant communities and to heighten the chances of racial attacks in both directions.

Election should be entitled to know the policies of the main political parties on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL PURCELL,
French Mill Cottage,
French Mill Lane,
Shaftesbury, Dorset.
April 10.

From Lord Renton, QC

Sir, Mr John Birchmore and Mr Marcus Elliott, who want an elected second chamber (letters, April 7), presumably assume that it would be as efficient as the present House of Lords, which is unlikely.

The main responsibility of the Lords is the revision of legislation, which comes to us from the Commons needing a great deal of improvement, not only of drafting but of operational effect. Each session we have to make 1,000 and sometimes even more than 2,000 amendments, nearly all of which the Commons accept, although they have the last word.

The Lords are in a strong position to ask the Commons to think again because of their immense range of expertise not available in the Commons. Besides the law lords and the bishops,

there are past and present Cabinet Ministers, former ambassadors, top civil servants, heads of the Armed Forces and trade unions. We have heads of universities, and representatives of commerce and industry and of every profession. We have successful landowners, farmers and foresters, journalists, broadcasters and authors. Charities are well represented.

If the Lords were replaced by a democratically elected chamber, it would become a mere microcosm of the Commons and the performance of Parliament would decline.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RENTON,
House of Lords.
April 13.

From Mr Michael Reid

Sir, I rather like the House of Lords as it is, even if there may be one or two curmudgeons amongst them. It does a good job and precisely because its members don't have to get elected we are spared all the hogwash we get from politicians who need votes.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL REID,
15 Argyle Road, Mudeford, Dorset.
April 10.

The Tattion factor

From Mr Hammond Smith

Sir, I have never voted for the Tory Party, and I don't expect I ever will. However, I do fervently hope that Neil Hamilton wins Tattion with a massive majority, for I can't help feeling that the media, the other political parties and Martin Bell in particular, have behaved quite abominably.

At this point Neil Hamilton is innocent of any charge, yet Martin Bell, by standing as an anti-sleaze, anti-corruption candidate — and the other parties in supporting him — have by implication already condemned Mr Hamilton.

I find that outrageous.
Yours faithfully,
HAMMOND SMITH,
31 Dukes Drive, Leicester.
April 13.

Archbishop's ideas on teaching morals in the classroom

From the Chairman of the Citizenship Foundation

Sir, This charity has extensive involvement with moral education in schools, and we applaud the intervention by the Archbishop of Canterbury in what has to date been an undernourished debate on a vital subject (*Morals are made in the classroom*, April 10).

As a nation we are in danger of being so terrified about bias in moral education that, as with political education, we steer clear of real-life debate in the classroom.

The hullabaloo which greeted the report on moral education by the national forum set up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (details, October 29, 1996) says much about the enfeebled muddle into which discussion of this topic has fallen.

In our experience teachers and their pupils are much more fair-minded and robust than many give them credit for. Attempts at indoctrination are very rare and invariably ineffective. More to the point, young people respond avidly to the chance to develop their powers of moral reasoning and, where they are given that chance, we find the results are universally gratifying.

The difficulties are not just those of faint hearts. Shortage of cash and the overweening preoccupation with league tables have led to a continuing decrease in the time and resources which schools feel able to make available for anything but examinable subjects.

That is why the SCAA and the Archbishop are right to seek to push moral and citizenship education up the curriculum agenda. For the country's sake, we devoutly hope that it will be a priority for the next Government.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW PHILLIPS,
Chairman,
Citizenship Foundation,
Wedell House,
13 West Smithfield, EC1.
April 11.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, George Carey is wrong about right and wrong. It isn't true that "our society has become morally reticent, even inarticulate"; it isn't "a popular cultural assumption" that "what is right is simply a matter of individual opinion"; or that "morality is a purely private affair"; it isn't right to suggest that there are "false theories of privatised morality"; or that any serious person doubts the need for a society to have "shared values".

It is also wrong to suggest that there should be a single moral authority or that there are absolute moral values; after all, even the most moralistic institutions have relative values — early Christians changed their views of circumcision and diet, the Sabbath and the synagogue, and later Christians changed their views of heresy and witchcraft, slavery and contraception.

There is no doubt that there should be moral education in schools, but there is much doubt about what form it should take and whether it should

be controlled by political parties and religious denominations.

Above all, such education should surely take account of the fact that the "widespread moral confusion" in our society affects those in authority as much as anyone else, and it should teach children to question what they are told and to learn how to make up their own minds in the area of morality, as everywhere else.

Yours &c,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Nationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
April 10.

From Mr C. A. Palmer

Sir, "It would be wrong to burden schools with unrealistic expectations of what they can achieve by themselves," says Dr Carey. I agree.

Why do not all the local churches come together and set up a religious period each day (20 minutes, say), immediately before or after school, where the supervision, control and instruction would be entirely in their hands, using their trained staff instead of burdening further our teachers?

There should be a class for each of the local faiths willing to participate and, yes, one for agnostics/non-believers, not split by grades.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. PALMER,
Tudor House, 3 Belle Vue Walk,
West Parley, Ferndown, Dorset.
April 10.

'Luxury' of recycling

From Dr David A. Harris,
Secretary General of the
Aluminium Federation

Sir, The Mayor of Washington, who has suspended the city's recycling scheme because "it is a luxury the nation's capital can no longer afford" (letters, April 11), risks losing the baby with the bathwater.

Of all the materials in the waste stream — chiefly plastic, glass, newsprint, steel and aluminium — the latter is the most valuable. Recycling it from household waste, or indeed any other source, has always been economic, not so much on the grounds of saving raw materials (8 per cent of the Earth's crust is aluminium) but on the grounds of the energy savings made when the aluminium is recycled rather than produced from ore.

For this reason the UK aluminium industry has invested heavily in the infrastructure to collect, sort and re-process aluminium beverage cans and foil before those materials get into the waste stream.

Collected aluminium cans have a value of £450 per tonne to individuals and collection groups and a trade value of £750 per tonne on delivery to our recycling centres. Our industry will economically recycle all the aluminium that is collected.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. HARRIS,
Secretary General,
Aluminium Federation Ltd,
Broadway House, Calthorpe Road,
Five Ways, Birmingham 15.

Picking at bones of 'flute' discovery

From Mr S. W. G. Davies

Sir, It is, I think, significant that the excavators of the Divje Babe site in western Slovenia have been so secretive about their discovery of a Neanderthal "flute" (report, April 5).

No relevant publications have been forthcoming, and most researchers regard this "instrument" as nothing more than the result of carnivore gnawing/perforation of a cave bear bone.

As can be seen from your picture, the bone is virtually complete, with swelling at either end, and could never have been as much as 15 inches long. The fact that the bone has only two holes is significant. It does not take a genius to replicate these holes *ad infinitum* along any length of tube, producing an instrument of great capacity.

The Neanderthal association with this "flute" is based, it seems, on the presence of a solitary stone tool some distance away, presumed to be analogous with others made by Neanderthals. However, as such tools have also been found in assemblages apparently manufactured by anatomically-modern humans, such an association must be dubious.

I have myself handled the earliest indisputable musical instruments: they comprise two reed pipes made from bird bone, found in southern Germany and dated between 33,000 and 36,000 years ago. They are associated with representational sculpture and are presumed to have been made by people like ourselves.

The manufacture of "tools" to make abstract sounds — i.e. musical instruments — implies that people must have been using such sounds much earlier. Such artefacts therefore represent a *terminus ante quem* for organised patterns of sound, formed into language.

Yours faithfully,
S. W. G. DAVIES,
University of Cambridge,
Dorothy Garrod Laboratory for
Palaeolithic Research,
Downing Street, Cambridge.
April 5.

Ginsberg achievement

From Mr Michael Horowitz

Sir, *Pace* your obituary (April 7), Allen Ginsberg won several major literary prizes, including the US National Book Award in 1973, the Robert Frost Medal "for distinguished poetic achievement" in 1986, and the American Book Award "for literary excellence" in 1990 — not that he set much store by such laurels.

Over 40 volumes of Ginsberg's poetry have been published, not the dozen or so remarked by the obituary. And the most debilitating "earthy passion" his teacher Chogyam Trungpa indulged was alcoholism (mainly vodka), rather than "women, cars and cannabis".

The obituary closed by stating that Ginsberg "leaves no survivors". This is true in that no children seem to have derived from his loins; but his life's work has probably influenced and enriched the lives and works of more spiritual and poetic descendants than that of any other poet this century.

By the way, the opening lines which you quote from *Howl* end "... looking for an angry fix" (not an "active" one).

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOROWITZ,
Editor,
New Departures,
PO Box 9819, London W11 2GQ.
April 8.

Darrens and Deans

From Miss Christina Gorna

Sir, In the 20 years since I resumed full-time practice at the Bar I have had 11 pupils. My present pupil, Darren, is one of the brightest of the lot and was certainly not "born to fail at school" (report, April 2; letter, April 8).

His predecessors were called Stuart, Peter, Michael, Stefan, Samantha, Rebecca, Rupert, Mark, Richard and Alexander. What can this mean? They have all done very well, incidentally.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTINA GORNA,
Castle Chambers,
3 Queens Terrace, Exeter, Devon.
April 9.

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, I should be most interested to know in which school "set" your correspondent, Mr Arthur Tahner, put the new pupils called Michael — and, for that matter, the Arthurs.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham, Cambridgeshire.
April 8.

Remembered hills

From Mr Martin A. Locke

Sir, Three letters today, and home of Monday's Grand National winner — Shropshire on the map, at last.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN A. LOCKE,
Church Farmhouse,
Astley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
April 9.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR GLANVILLE WILLIAMS, QC

Glanville Williams, QC, FBA, former Rouse Ball Professor of English Law at Cambridge University, died on April 10 aged 86. He was born on February 15, 1911.

For more than half a century, the work of Glanville Williams has made compulsory reading for every student of law at English and Commonwealth universities. He was a prolific and provocative writer, publishing widely in the fields of both civil and criminal law.

But his most substantial and lasting contribution may well prove to be his analytical *Criminal Law: The General Part*. Lucid in construction, and path-breaking in its ability to make abstruse principles accessible, this fundamental work filled a yawning gap in English legal literature. It is still widely regarded as a basic textbook, establishing Williams as Britain's foremost scholar of criminal law. Equally, his pedagogical *vade mecum*, *Learning the Law*, came to be thrust by tutors — in between the routine sherry parties — upon all law undergraduates in their first week at college.

Williams, once described by a colleague as "the illegitimate child of Jeremy Bentham", had a brilliant analytical mind. He played an important part in a succession of bodies set up to review England's criminal law. Often he would take highly controversial stands.

He was one of the earlier advocates that police should use tape-recorders when interviewing criminal suspects. He was a passionate champion of euthanasia. He counteracted the argument that a change in euthanasia laws would put distressing pressure on old or dying people with the simple proposal that any legalisation of euthanasia should only be in the cases of those seriously ill and without any prospect of relief, and, of course, only with the patient's consent.

He was also an advocate of legalised abortion — a subject upon which he often locked horns with Lord Longford on the letters pages of *The Times* — and was president of the Abortion Law Reform Association. He also aroused controversy when he called for rape in marriage to come under the lesser offence of "marital abuse".

Glanville Llewellyn Williams came from a modest background. His father was a retail clothier, his mother a schoolteacher. He was always to retain something of the shyness of an only child.

He was educated at Cowbridge School, but at the age of 16 went to live



with an uncle in Aberystwyth. It was then that he made up his mind to devote himself to the study of law. This was a resolution to which he characteristically remained faithful.

He began his legal education at University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and continued it at St John's College, Cambridge. A research fellow at St John's, 1936-42, he went on to become Reader in English Law and, successively, Professor of Public Law and Quain Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of London. He returned to Cambridge in the mid-1950s first as a Reader, then as Professor, and from 1968 held the Rouse Ball Chair of English Law.

Williams was a prolific writer on a wide variety of legal topics, his most concentrated period of authorship falling in the quarter century from 1939 to 1965. His first book *Liability for Animals*, published in 1939, was his PhD thesis. So impressed was the examiner, Sir William Holdsworth, that he inquired whether it had been written for an LL.D.

His subsequent publications fall into two main categories. First, there were his commentaries in the broad field of civil law, prominent among them *The Law Reform (Frustrated Contracts Act*,

1943) published in 1944, *Crown Proceedings* (1948), *Joint Obligations* (1949), *Joint Torts and Contributory Negligence* (1950), and finally *Foundations of the Law of Tort* (with Professor B. A. Hepple) (1976). Second, in relation to criminal law, his most substantial volume was *Criminal Law: The General Part*, first published in 1953. Also, now relatively unread, but in its time a gem of provocation, was a mischievous jurisprudential essay written in 1945, for the *British Journal of International Law*, in which Williams effectively described all academic international lawyers as pedants.

Other books in this field reflected his activities both here and abroad. His *Hamlyn Trust Lectures*, under the title *The Proof of Guilt*, came out in 1955. *The Sanctity of Life and the Criminal Law* was an outstanding, but highly controversial, contribution to the famous series of *Carpenter Lectures* at Columbia, published in 1958. In it he dealt with such sensitive topics as abortion, control of conception, prohibition of suicide and euthanasia.

He was responsible for the first edition of *The Reform of the Law* (1951), prepared by members of the Haldane Society and other Labour lawyers. *The Mental Element in Crime* was based

upon his Lionel Cohen Lectures given at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1965. In addition, he wrote many stimulating articles for periodicals, including *Language and the Law* in the *Law Quarterly Review* (1945).

Williams played an active role in various bodies set up to review the criminal law of England: the Standing Committee on Criminal Law Revision, the Law Commission's Working Party on the Codification of the Criminal Law, Lord Butler's committee on mentally abnormal offenders.

Between 1956 and 1958 he was Special Consultant for the American Law Institute's model penal code. He was the first Walter E. Mayer visiting research Professor, New York University, 1959-60.

His *Criminal Law: The General Part*, published in 1953, was deplored by certain old-fashioned academics to whom accessibility smacked of vulgarity. But nothing has so far replaced it. Indeed, many were disappointed that this *General Part* was never followed by a sequel. He did, however, publish in 1978 a *Textbook of Criminal Law*.

Although he had an acutely analytical mind, Williams had for some a less sure sense of society's conflicting interests. Many considered his proposals for reform unrealistic. He was a rationalist and a utilitarian — but also a humanitarian. "Criminal law is an instrument to be used to further the well-being of society and not to diminish that well-being," he wrote to *The Times* in 1967.

Yet for all his mild appearance, Williams was capable of telling the House of Lords (or anyone else for that matter) that they were fools. During the Second World War he was a conscientious objector. He led a simple life and enjoyed simple pleasures.

He was made an LL.D. (Cantab) in 1946, and elected to a Fellowship at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1955, and to an honorary Fellowship in 1978. He was made a Fellow of the British Academy in 1957 and was appointed Honorary Bencher, Middle Temple, in 1966. In 1968 he took Silk — in spite of the fact that years earlier he had argued for the abolition of QCs.

In 1963 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Nottingham, followed by Wales in 1974, Glasgow in 1980, Durham in 1984 and Sussex in 1987.

In 1978 he was presented with a festschrift, *Reshaping the Criminal Law: Essays in Honour of Glanville Williams* (edited by P. R. Glazebrook). Williams married in 1939, Lorna Margaret Lawfield. He is survived by her and by their son.

J. B. G. THOMAS

J. B. G. Thomas, OBE, rugby correspondent, died on April 11 aged 79. He was born on April 29, 1917.



FEW sets of initials were better known in rugby circles during the 1950s and 1960s than those of John Brinley George Thomas. As the rugby union correspondent for the Cardiff-based *Western Mail* for 36 years, JBG was present on any tour of significance, both to and from Britain. Regarded as one of the sport's leading commentators, he brought a wealth of detail to the reader in his own inimitable and enthusiastic way.

As a writer, Thomas — known by the nickname Bryn (short for Brinley) — was not a stylist. Indeed, many believed he was better at broadcasting. He would happily use 20 words where two might have been enough. A telegram from the publishers of his first book, *On Tour* (1954), illustrated the point. When they received the first draft they wrote: "Staggered by the length." Thomas was forced to cut it by half.

But nothing could diminish his love of the game nor his happiness in the company of rugby players and administrators. He was appointed OBE in recognition of his services to the sport in 1984.

Thomas was born in Pontypridd. He began his journalistic career as a freelance writer before joining the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. During the Second World War, he served for much of the time in minesweepers.

He joined the *Western Mail* in 1946 and by the time he retired in 1982 he had served not only as the paper's chief rugby writer but for 20 years as sports editor and, latterly, as assistant editor.

His greater fame emerged from touring with the British Isles and Ireland teams, the Lions, during the 1950s and

1960s. He not only published his reports of these tours in his paper at a time when few national newspapers considered rugby tours worthy of in-depth coverage, but he also wrote a series of books. In total Thomas published some 30 books. Of these several charmed the progress of tours and others were of a more historical nature. Together they worked to stimulate interest in the game at a time when it was not well served in a literary sense.

He and his great friend Vivian Jenkins, the former Wales full back who went on to write for *The Sunday Times*, were the only journalists from Britain to accompany the 1955 Lions in South Africa. Players knew that they could trust the two Welshmen, in an era when revelations of misbehaviour had little part to

play in their reports. Thomas was a kindly man. He believed himself to be as much a servant of the game as an observer. "He never destroyed players," Bledyn Williams, the former Wales centre and captain, said. "Bryn was everyone's firm friend."

Thomas was an avuncular figure, small of stature and invariably wearing a flat cap and puffing on a cigar. After his retirement, living in Cardiff, he continued to contribute to the *Western Mail*. But he was plagued by ill health and was much affected by the loss of his wife, Gwen, 12 years ago. He found companionship subsequently with Margaret.

In 1995 Thomas had to have one leg amputated. He was about to undergo the amputation of the other leg when he died.

He leaves three sons.

THE REV DERYCK GOODWIN

The Reverend Deryck Goodwin, physicist, died of cancer on March 12 aged 69. He was born on September 28, 1927.



AS A physicist Deryck Goodwin made a considerable contribution to developments in the application of laser technology. His research into solid state lasers led him to build probably the first ruby laser to operate in Britain. But he will be remembered by many, too, for his lifelong commitment to the Church of England. He was ordained at the age of 51 and, on retiring from his career in York University, devoted his life to the following of his ecclesiastical call.

Born in Lincoln, Deryck William Goodwin was the only child of a family much involved with the religious life of the city. He was educated at Lincoln School where both his scientific and ecclesiastical interests were quickly recognised. He concluded an examination paper, for instance, with the proclamation "Amen".

Goodwin went on to Birmingham University where he stayed on after graduating to complete his PhD, working on the development of a high energy atom smasher. It was his move in 1963 to the Royal Radar Establishment (RRE, now the DRA) at Great Malvern which provided a springboard for his most influential work.

His initial work at RRE was concerned with indium antimonide as an infra-red detector. With the invention of the laser and its importance to the defence field, he rapidly became involved in its development. He built a ruby laser and also designed the first elliptical cylindrical cavity used in solid state lasers. He then went on to investigate the spectroscopy of likely laser materials such as calcium tungstate.

Joining the University of York soon after its foundation, Goodwin continued his research. At this time very few materials suitable for making lasers were known and he explored several new ones, some of which are still in common use. He was always alert for new ways of using the laser, such as in printing and communication, and he realised for too that it had a potential for use in the medical field.

He did some important basic work on how radiation from lasers interacted with human tissue, with the result that lasers are now in routine use in several surgical procedures. In addition he continued the fruitful collaboration which he had started with a number of government organisations through the pursuit of many research contracts.

He played an important role in the establishment of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in physics at the University of York, in which his lively interest in his subject awakened the enthusiasms of his students.

Goodwin also took an active role outside the university, giving many lectures and demonstrations, from the 14th Sir George Cayley memorial lecture to taking part in the television series *The Scientists*

in 1971. He wrote for numerous newspapers and magazines on laser technology and its wider importance to society.

In 1986 Goodwin retired from the university to become a full-time cleric. He had been ordained in 1978 and had worked as a non-stipendiary curate in Elvington for nine years.

His first parish was at Burton Pidsea, near Hull. He then moved on to become rector of Middleton, Levensham, Lockton and Newton upon Radcliffe, giving himself wholeheartedly to the service of his parishioners. He retired in 1994 but continued to lead worship until his death.

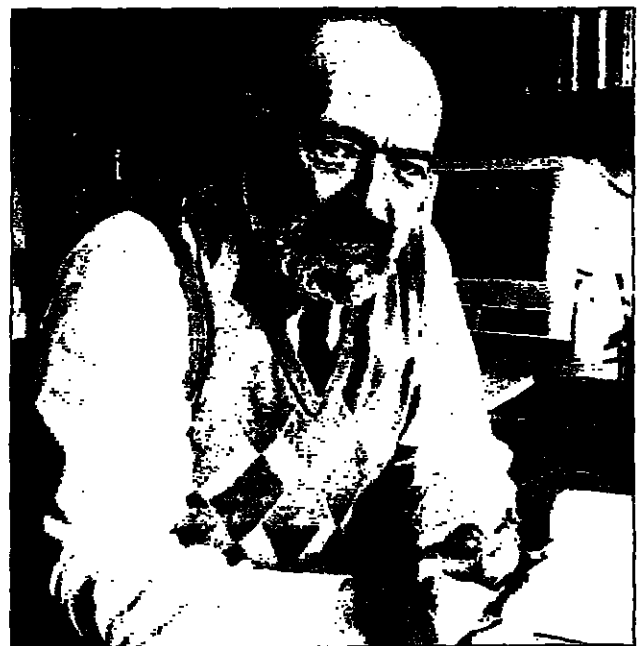
Throughout his life Goodwin maintained a love of choral music. He participated in the Three Choirs Festival while at Malvern and on occasions he sang in the cathedral choirs of Lincoln and York. He was chairman and a longtime member of York Musical Society.

It was a natural progression from his academic work that Goodwin should find himself advising the York diocese about the lighting of their churches. Starting on smaller parishes, his voluntary consultancy — Goodwin Lighting — rapidly stretched outside the region and to increasingly important commissions. One of the most challenging of these was a major survey of the lighting of Westminster Abbey. Several cathedrals, along with some 150 parish churches, have benefited from his expertise. However, it was his lighting scheme for the illumination of Fountains Abbey which he felt to be the most successful. He was working on the lighting of Newcastle Cathedral and Bridlington Priory right up to the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife Joyce. There were no children.

BERTOLD HORNING

Bertold Horning, town planner, died on March 20 aged 71. He was born in Czechoslovakia on March 25, 1925.



THE WORK of Bertold Horning was the embodiment of much for which the Czech Republic is renowned — remarkable architecture and magnificent town planning. After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, during which Horning was imprisoned in a concentration camp, he planned the Prague metro. But before his innovative ideas had been carried out, the Russians had invaded his country and he had been forced to flee.

Later, based in Edinburgh — a city which echoed the townscape of Prague — Horning found himself charged with overseeing a team working on the planning of an inner ring road. Before his arrival there had been an acrimonious public inquiry. The desires of the citizens had not been properly taken into account.

With determination and imagination, Horning reduced the scale of the road developments and shifted attention towards pedestrianisation, traffic restraint and the prioritising of public transport. It was to prove far more popular than the original idea. "Make traffic fit the city, not the city fit the traffic," was Horning's favourite dictum. It now has many adherents.

Bertold Horning was born in Ostrava, Moravia, of Jewish parents. By the time he was 13 his father, a businessman, had already died, the

Nazis had invaded his country and his education had ended. Attempts to smuggle him and a group of other Jewish children out of the country failed and Horning found himself apprenticed to a carpenter instead. The craft probably saved his life. When he and his mother were imprisoned in Terezin, his carpentry made him a valuable member of a work gang. In later life he would build his own furniture.

When the war was over, he trained as an architect and engineer at the Czech Technical University in Prague. He proved an excellent student. On a summer vacation job in Bulgaria he was asked to do a design for a school. It was under construction by the time he returned home.

On graduation in 1950 he accepted an invitation to join his university as a tutor. At the same time, however, he worked on master plans for an industrial city and a landscape design for Southern Bohemia. Local plans which he made for Prague led to important research into the city's ancient history. They were later to prove invaluable when the metro system was built. But, if brilliant as a designer, Horning was also fearless, and in 1957, having written a letter of protest about the communist show trials, he was sent to Eastern Slovakia to design pigsties for an agricultural organisation.

It was fortunate that he was not sent to prison as others were, since his job gave him

time to enter (anonymously) a competition for the design of a new town which he won. In 1958 he was appointed its architect and planner with a directive to carry out its construction at phenomenal speed.

Then, winning another competition, he was back in Prague in 1965. He resumed his teaching at the university and was greatly respected by students pressing for reforms in the brief years of liberalisation. But before his plans for a city metro had been put into practice the Russian tanks arrived in Prague. In the turmoil Horning hurried to the American film studios where his wife was working.

Though the studios were abandoned he came across some exit certificates on the director's desk and, hurriedly signing them himself, he pocketed them. Then, telling neighbours that he and his family were off for a picnic, he drove to Austria.

Horning travelled on to London where, desperately in need of any employment he could get, he found a menial job in the London County Council's architecture department. He had been there for two years when he was introduced to Sir Colin Buchanan whose partnership had just been appointed planning consultants to Edinburgh.

Buchanan, recognising Horning as a man of energy and ideas, placed him in charge of his team in Edinburgh. Under his influence the development plan began to take shape. He proved that a stand taken on behalf of the people was the best way to get

constructive results.

Horning next went, in 1972, on a British Council sponsored mission to replan Jerusalem. From there he travelled to Oman. On his return in 1975, he joined Frank Tindall, the chief planner of the Lothian region, as an assistant director of physical and policy planning. He helped to develop Tindall's structure plan for the region. It was to be Scotland's first plan of this kind, in that it was realised through the process of full public consultation.

Meanwhile Horning attended evening classes at the Edinburgh College of Art to obtain his diploma in town and country planning. On his election to the Royal Town Planning Institute, he became a chartered town planner.

Horning had a heart attack in 1983 and was in and out of hospital for years after. But this did not prevent him, when the collapse of Communism came in 1989, from accepting an invitation from the then Federal Republic to act as consultant on training projects for Prague City Council and for his old university.

When the Czech state separated from Slovakia, he continued to advise the Czech government on the town planning system and planning legislation. He also continued to teach at Edinburgh University. In 1994 he organised a huge exhibition about Prague at the Edinburgh City Arts Centre. His achievements were recognised in 1996 by an honorary degree from Heriot-Watt University.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Church news

Latest appointments include

The Rev John Andrews, Royal Army Chaplain's Department, to be Priest-in-charge, Lyme Regis (Salisbury).

The Rev Eric Booth, Assistant Priest (NSM), St Anne, Pence-Pendle, to be Assistant Priest (NSM), Padham (Blackburn).

The Rev Mark Brackley, Curate, All Hallows, Gospel Oak, to be Vicar, Christ Church, West Green (London).

The Rev Martin Broadmore, Curate, Harnes Bay, Christ Church (Canterbury), to be Curate, St Paul, Camberley (Guildford).

The Rev William Broad, Vicar, Blackhall, to be Team Rector, Great Ayldife Team Ministry (Durham).

Canon Richard Bryant, Vicar, Wyham, and Director of Reader Training (Newcastle), to be Training Director for Local Ministry and Director of Reader Training, same diocese.

The Rev David Casson, Vicar, Holy Trinity and Christ Church, Richmond (Southwark), to be Rector, Acle with Fishley, North Burlingham and Beighton with Moulton (Norwich).

The Rev Vanessa Cato, Curate, Holy Trinity, Southchurch, to be Rector, Orsett and Bulphan and Hornby-on-the-Hill (Chelmsford).

The Rev Robin Charles, Vicar, Rugeley Team Ministry (Lichfield), to be Vicar, East Scarsdale Team Ministry (Derby).

The Rev Dr Christopher Cocksworth, formerly Chaplain, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College (Guildford), now Director, Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme, Sarum College (Salisbury).

The Rev Michael Cooke, Chaplain with the Teesside Industrial Mission, to be Vicar, united benefice of Kellow w Coxhoe (Durham).

The Rev Sheila Dixon, Curate, Ordsall All Hallows and Retford St Albans, to be Priest-in-charge, Sutton with Carlton and Normanton upon Trent and Marham (Southwell).

The Rev James Duxbury, Vicar, St Leonard, Padham (Blackburn), to be also an Honorary Canon of Blackburn Cathedral.

Six preachers: The Rev Graham Cray, Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and the Rev Andrew Wingfield Digby, Director of Christians in Sport, have been appointed as Six Preachers in Canterbury Cathedral, to replace the Bishop of London and the Bishop of Maidstone.

Resignations and retirements: The Rev David Battersby, Curate, Ashchurch (Gloucester), to retire on May 2.

The Rev Peter Blundell, Curate (NSM), St Barnabas, Kensington (London), to resign to take up a post in the diocese of Harare in the Province of Central Africa.

The Rev Alan Brannagan, Chaplain, St George's Memorial Church, Ypres, Belgium, to resign on May 31.

Canon Ray Brazier, resigned as priest-in-charge, Bishopston, from January 27, but continues as the incumbent, St Matthew and St Nathanael, Bristol (Bristol).

Canon Michael Cooper, Honorary Chaplain to the Bishop in Canterbury, an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral, and Assistant Chaplain to Kent and Canterbury Hospital and Nunbury Fields Hospital (Canterbury), to resign on April 30.

The Rev Jack Harding, Vicar, St John, Birkdale (Liverpool), to retire on May 25.

The Rev Michael Jackson, Vicar, Swinton (Sheffield), to retire on April 30.

The Rev Dr Jane Tiller, Chaplain and Visitors' Officer, Gloucester Cathedral (Gloucester), resigned on March 31.

TYPHUS CAUSES A TRUCE BRITISH TO GUARD PRISON CAMP

From Our Special Correspondent

ON THE ALLER, April 13

By negotiations between British and German officers during a local truce British troops will take over from the S.S. and the Wehrmacht the guarding the vast concentration camp at Belsen, a few miles north-west of Celle, which contains about 60,000 prisoners, both criminals and anti-Nazis.

This extraordinary step has been agreed by the British because typhus is rampant in the camp and it is vitally necessary that no prisoners should be allowed out until the infection is checked. Moreover, it will be necessary for allied security officers to sort out which of the prisoners are in the camp for political reasons and which are serving sentences for crime.

Under the final agreement the advancing British agree to refrain from bombing and shelling the area in which the camp is situated and the Germans agree to leave behind an armed guard for a week after the British have arrived. The German soldiers will afterwards be allowed to return to their lines.

ON THIS DAY

April 14, 1945

The full of horror of Belsen was only realised when British troops entered the concentration camp on April 15, 1945, one day after this report was published.

The story of the negotiation is a curious one. Yesterday morning two German officers presented themselves before our outposts. They explained that there were 9,000 sick in the camp and that all sanitation had failed. They suggested that the British should occupy the camp at once, declaring that the responsibility was international, in the interests of health. In return for the delay caused by the truce, Germans offered to surrender intact the bridges at Winsen over the River Aller.

After brief consideration the British senior officer rejected the German proposals, saying that the British should occupy an area of 10 kilometres round the camp to be sure of

keeping their troops and lines of communication away from the disease. The Germans said they must refer to their senior officer, and a British brigadier and a captain set off to the German HQ. There the German senior officer then rang up Himmler as Reichsführer, whose chief of staff rejected the terms. The new agreement was then concluded. The truce, which had been confined to the area round the Winsen bridge, expired after 12 hours. The Germans blew up the bridge and a very odd interlude in the battle of Germany ended.

RUSSIANS TAKE VIENNA

Marshal Stalin, in an order of the day addressed to Marshal Tolbukhin and Lieutenant-General Ivanov, last night announced: "Troops of the 3rd Ukrainian front, in cooperation with troops of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, after stubborn fighting today captured the city of Vienna, a strategic strong-point covering the approaches to southern Germany. From March 16 to April 13 more than 130,000 prisoners were taken."

During the battles on the approaches to Vienna troops of the 3rd Ukrainian Command routed 11 tank divisions, including the 6th S.S. Tank Army. They also destroyed or captured 1,345 tanks and self-propelled guns, 2,250 field pieces, and much other war equipment.

NEWS

Blair signals shift in poll strategy

■ Tony Blair signalled a dramatic shift of gear in the Labour election campaign aimed at injecting "passion, vision and conviction" into a battle that he claims has been marred by negative strategies and "media cynicism".

In what will be seen as a response to weekend headlines alleging "wobblers", he let it be known that he intended to take the election by the "scruff of the neck"..... Page 1

Referendum faithful stage rally

■ The Referendum Party staged an election rally at Alexandra Palace in London which Sir James Goldsmith, its leader, called "more of a jamboree than a conference". But if the mood was outwardly festive, the rhetoric was more aggressive than anything seen so far in this election campaign..... Page 1

Five pages of Election 97 coverage from Page 7

Closest finish

Liz McColgan, Britain's premier long-distance runner, lost by one second to Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya in the closest women's race in the 17-year history of the London marathon..... Pages 1, 33

Catholics forced out

Eight Roman Catholic families were forced to flee their homes in North Belfast after they were ransacked by loyalists..... Page 2

EU warned

A future Tory government will block change in the EU until Spanish and other foreign-owned fishing boats are taken off the British register..... Page 2

Millennium challenge

Thousands of miniaturised computers inside missiles and other modern weapon systems are having to be reprogrammed to overcome the millennium date-change disaster..... Page 2

Cause of anorexia

A team of doctors has discovered that 16 out of 18 anorexic children studied had reduced blood flow in the part of the brain that governs appetite..... Page 3

British heroes

Two British men, John Bown and Blair Davies, threw themselves on to an exploding grenade to protect their wives and other diners as a blast rocked a crowded restaurant in Ethiopia. Both received wounds..... Page 3

Dance of the diplomatic veils

■ Nude dancers from Paris' Crazy Horse Saloon had to cover up for a nightclub performance in Hong Kong because the organisers, the French Asian Arts Society, wanted to protect Chinese Communist Party guests from excess nudity. The £5,833-a-table event was to raise money for the Guimet Museum, a Paris institution dedicated to Asian art..... Page 13

Carey's concern

Parents who do not attend church should not be prevented from bringing children for baptism, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said..... Page 5

Step up for women

A fast-track system to increase the number of women judges has been suggested by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, at the Woman Lawyer conference sponsored by *The Times*..... Page 6

Netanyahu's move

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel held secret talks with Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, about forming a national unity government..... Page 12

Iran's spy link

As Iranians demonstrated against Germany and the West, it was revealed that a senior Iranian intelligence official was linked to Shia Muslims suspected of bombing US military barracks Saudi Arabia last year..... Page 12

Zaire plea for calm

Zaire's military governor issued an appeal for calm as rumours spread that rebels had started to infiltrate the city..... Page 13

India's dilemma

India expects to know this week if it faces its second general election within a year. The Congress Party, which brought down the coalition Government, was vilified by editorial writers..... Page 13



John Major and his daughter Elizabeth, 25, and her live-in boyfriend Luke Salter watch the London marathon from the balcony of The City Pride, a pub opposite Canary Wharf, Docklands, which offers privileged views of the race

BUSINESS

Business vote: Opinion polls out today suggest that a Labour victory would make little impact on the investment returns available from the stockmarket..... Page 48

Interest rate warnings: The CBI gave a warning against an increase in interest rates after the dramatic rise of sterling..... Page 48

Delayed takeoff: The Civil Aviation Authority is likely to come under pressure to reconsider its controversial pricing formula for BAA because of the delay to the expected opening date of the £1.5 billion fifth terminal at Heathrow..... Page 48

SFO joins inquiry: The Serious Fraud Office has linked with authorities in Belgium in an investigation into a £100 million insurance scam..... Page 48

ARTS

Bible readings: The Authorised Version of the Bible has been published in paperback as a World's Classic — so now, says Melvyn Bragg, it can be taught as a set book in schools..... Page 18

Critical list: The *Times* theatre critic, Jeremy Kingston, has turned director for a short season in Battersea, so we invited Sir Peter Hall to turn critic and review Mr Kingston's efforts..... Page 18

Lost souls: Also directing a play in Battersea is *Times* critic James Christopher. Benedict Nightingale reviews a tale of suppressed desires in a shoeshop..... Page 18

Uprooting the Garden: The Royal Opera House has finally unveiled its plans during the closure of its Covent Garden home..... Page 19

FEATURES

Erica Wagner: "I did not serve an 11-course meal, put off by the warnings at the back of my new cookbook: 'Do not try to prepare this meal by yourself. Enlist at least one sous-chef and a dishwasher to help you'. But then, I had reservations about recreating the *Last Dinner on the Titanic*..... Page 16

MIND AND MATTER

Counting down: The atomic second threatens to make a mockery of millennium clocks on December 31, 1999. Nigel Hawkes reports..... Page 15

Small secrets: An Australian entomologist has devised the ultimate indignity for dead insects: a machine for inflating their genitalia..... Page 15

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS

A rare chance to see tiny Islamic treasures from the Queen's collection

■ LAW

Society is obsessed with street crime, but corporate crime has a far greater cost

SPORT

FA Cup: Chesterfield, of the second division, forced a replay with Middlesbrough, of the Premiership, after an astonishing 3-3 draw in the FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford. In the other semi-final, Chelsea advanced to their second final in four years with a 3-0 win over Wimbledon..... Pages 25, 28, 29

Premiership: Liverpool maintained their challenge for the FA Carling Premiership championship, but put Sunderland deeper into relegation trouble with a 2-1 win at Roker Park. Newcastle United drew 1-1 at Sheffield Wednesday..... Page 28

Motor racing: Jacques Villeneuve fought off a thrilling challenge from Eddie Irvine to win the Grand Prix in Buenos Aires..... Page 26

Rugby union: Wasps stand on the threshold of their second Courage Cubs Championship crown after their victory over Saracens was coupled with a thrashing for Leicester at Bath..... Page 35

Rugby league: Warrington Wolves registered their third successive Stones Super League victory but were unimpressive in overcoming Castleford Tigers 24-8..... Page 34

Lottery: 9, 27, 29, 37, 42 and 44. Bonus 21. Eight shared £6.8 million, winning £860,199 each. 30 got £70,580 each for five balls and the bonus. 2,021 won £654 each for five numbers. 90,642 won £32 each for four balls, and 1,374,794 won £10 for three

Preview: Ten Pound Poms (BBC1, 10.30pm) tells the stories of some of the Britons who emigrated to Australia 50 years ago. **Review: The smug Dr Sam Ryan in *Silent Witness*** makes Matthew Bond want to pinch her..... Page 47

Time to turn on

Lady Thatcher has never hidden a contempt for consensus. But her comments yesterday that "three weeks is quite long enough" for an election because otherwise "people get bored" will meet with almost universal approval..... Page 21

India's nadir

India has begun to look for a new Government, ten months after the last general elections..... Page 21

Ends and means

The Times hopes that the people of Putney will ensure that Sir James Goldsmith takes his place in the Commons..... Page 21

PETER RIDDELL

The Tories have had one big success in the campaign. They have avoided talking about what might happen in a fifth term. The election has so far mainly been about whether Labour can now be trusted in government..... Page 20

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The polls may be able to predict the national election result, but of Somerset's nine seats, only two can be predicted with confidence and seven must still be regarded as marginal..... Page 20

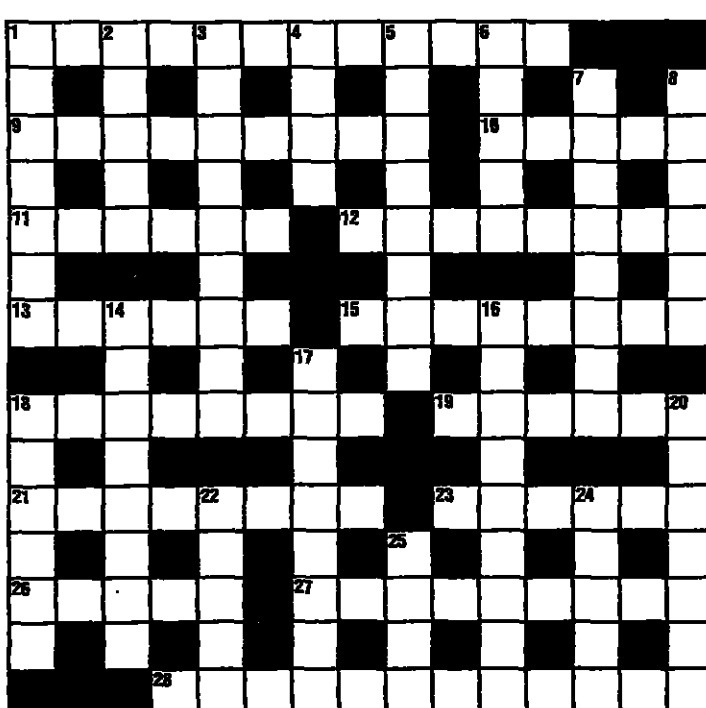
GEOFFREY HUGHES

Professor Glauville Williams, QC, former Rouse Ball Professor of English Law at Cambridge University; **J. B. G. Thomas,** rugby correspondent; **Bertold Hornung,** town planner; **The Reverend Derek Goodwin,** physicist..... Page 23

Election 97; Archbishop on moral education; Neanderthal "flute"; Darrens and Deans..... Page 21

Not enough credit has been given to the judges who were not afraid to point to the real murderer, in Berlin in 1992, of four Iraqi Kurds. This murderer is the Iranian state. Justice had to be done. It has been..... *Le Monde*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,453



- ACROSS**
- Bank's temporary accommodation (8,4).
 - Computer control behind glass plate (5-4).
 - Rascal's fraud getting little money (5).
 - Dig on site starts off fire (6).
 - For example, got across by first having used boat, say (8).
 - A lot for each following initial taste (6).
 - Severely beat many scholars contending in behindhand (8).
 - Oversight bringing quest to nought (8).
 - Wolsey, possibly, very angry after losing house (6).
 - Alitude marking extent of planes' rise? (4,4).
 - Protector of hit man (6).
 - Resources Mensa developed (5).
- DOWN**
- I.e. inputs ordered after English prefix (9).
 - Failing to use top gear brings severe reprimand (8-4).
 - Boats in formation creating defensive position (7).
 - Revolver was fired to punish this king (5).
 - Abuse estranges celebrity (9).
 - Lacking value when reduced — that's common sense (4).
 - Faithful servant, for example, put in position over staff (8).
 - Like games of tennis going to advantage (5).
 - Motorist carrying old and noisy drunk (8).
 - Odds on filly to note in field (6).
 - Ancient charge state imposed on land originally (8).
 - Extra raised to invest in large Australian pool (9).
 - Wrecks discovered by originators of early radar system (8).
 - Acting occasion, getting prompt (2,4).
 - Former sailors supporting opening of charitable organisation (7).
 - Failure when side secure zero points (5).
 - Beastly money (5).
 - Operatic heroine repeating note (4).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,452 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
 UK Weather: All regions 0336 444 910
 UK Roads: All regions 0336 401 410
 Inside M25 0336 401 765
 M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 762
 National Motorways 0336 401 768
 Continental Europe 0336 401 910
 Channel crossing 0336 401 388
 Motorway to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 905

Weather by Fax
 Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax
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 Wales 410 332 N. Ireland 410 341
 S. Ireland 410 333 N. Scotland 410 342
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 14 1997

CHELSEA BOOK PLACE AT WEMBLEY - BUT WHO WILL THEY PLAY?



Jamie Hewitt, scorer of Chesterfield's dramatic extra-time equaliser, is swamped by his jubilant team-mates in the FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths

Chesterfield script sequel to Cup classic

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TRADITIONALLY, it is a day divided into extremes, a day for the winners, who will walk out at Wembley to compete in the final, and a day for the losers, damned by falling at the last hurdle. Usually, it is a day split equally between joy and despair, but yesterday it felt as if the whole of English football should rejoice at what happened on FA Cup semi-final day.

A part of it came at Highbury, where Chelsea, and Gianfranco Zola in particular, produced a

scintillating second-half performance and a 3-0 victory over Wimbledon. Wembley is at least now assured of seeing Zola and Mark Hughes, his evergreen partner, who will equal the post-war record for the most appearances in a final when he walks out of the tunnel. Whether they will face the unpredictable princes of Middlesbrough or the upstarts from Chesterfield, though, is still in the balance.

For most, the magic of the FA Cup, that intangible quality that has seemed on the verge of being dissipated by the capricious sched-

uling of television companies, burst into view at Old Trafford later in the afternoon, when Chesterfield and Middlesbrough fought out one of the most thrilling ties in the history of the competition.

Despite their victories over Bolton Wanderers and Nottingham Forest, few had given John Duncan's Nationwide League second division team of journeymen any chance of knocking out Middlesbrough's exotic band of footballing millionaires on a neutral ground.

The game, though, turned into a modern classic, an encounter that swung first one way, then the other.



that brought out the grit and the fight the critics said Middlesbrough did not possess and preserved the nobility of a Chesterfield side that refused to give in and gained their reward in the final minute of extra-time.

After Kinder had been sent off for

two bookable offences for Middlesbrough in the first half, Chesterfield scented their opportunity. They stunned even their own supporters by going two goals up midway through the second half, courtesy of a tap-in by Morris and a courageous and fiercely struck penalty from their captain, Dyche.

Even for a Middlesbrough side packed with big names such as Ravanelli, Juninho and Emerson, there seemed to be no way back. But Ravanelli soon reduced the deficit and then, after Juninho had been brought down by Dyche, Hignett equalised from the penalty.

When Festa scored for Middlesbrough in extra time, it seemed Chesterfield's resistance had been broken, but Hewitt's looping header earned them an improbable replay at Hillsborough a week tomorrow, when they will try once again to become the only team from such a lowly division to climb to the final of the world's most famous cup competition.

The day seemed to have dug up so many men of the moment that Hughes was almost forgotten. His two goals took him to his fifth FA Cup final, a record he will share with Joe Hulme, Johnny Giles, Pat

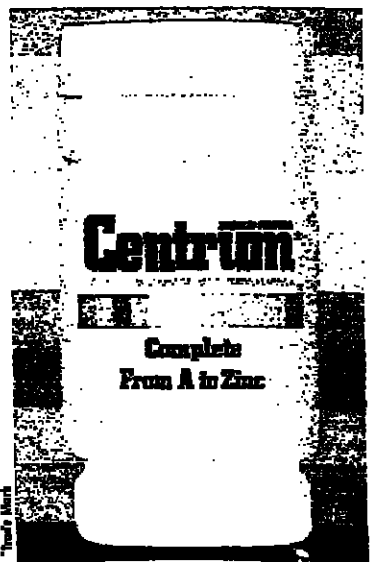
Rice, Frank Stapleton and Ray Clemence.

In the quiet of the interview room, a few minutes before the match between Middlesbrough and Chesterfield began, he was asked who he would prefer to face in the final. "Have a guess," he laughed. The beauty of it is that, after yesterday's match at Old Trafford, we are still guessing.

Hewitt's extra effort, page 28
Liverpool roll on, page 28
Steve McManaman, page 28
Zola's star turn, page 29
Cole fires United, page 31

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Sky's terrestrial rival needs something extra

Let us forget, for a moment, the results. Instead, let us consider the other match that was played yesterday with the FA Cup semi-finals. It was the BBC against Sky Sports, terrestrial against satellite, Auntie versus a nephew with attitude. The lady of a certain age acquitted herself well enough, but, in the end, it was the feisty youngster who walked off with the garlands.

The BBC's attitude to matters of great sporting moment is unadorned with what it undoubtedly sees as unnecessary frilleries. Wheel in the incomparable Desmond Lynam, give him Alan Hansen and one other with a bent for punditry, let them talk a bit, screen the first half, let the experts talk some more, screen the second half, back to the

analysis, another slice of chat, say goodbye and all push off home.

That is it, a good, plain job, solid as a rock, worthy if a trifle dull. It has worked since the television Middle Ages, when the pictures were black and white and speckly and Kenneth Wolstenholme was the man behind the microphone. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

All of which would probably still be acceptable had Sky not swaggered onto the scene. Although to the majority of televised football viewers, it is still not an option, Sky brings innovation and a certain laddish liveliness to the business of televising sport. It is tabloid television, but that does not mean that it is not entertaining.

Yesterday's coverage pro-

MEL WEBB TV ACTION REPLAY

vided an admirable case in point. BBC, first on at midday with Chelsea and Wimbledon, had what should have been the better match of the two, but did not make the most of it. Lynam was a credit. Hansen was also present, so that gave them another house mark. Trevor Brooking, he of the "yellow card" and the Essex adenoids, knows his stuff, too.

So far, so good. Except that the man behind the commentator's microphone was the pathologically verbose John

Motson and the other "expert" in the continuity booth was Jimmy Hill. Oh dear.

Motson is an acquired taste, indigestible to some, fine for others. He knows how to commentate, but then he should, he has been doing it long enough. His problem is that he feels the need to warble when a song is not called for. Yes, indeed, I fancy.

Hill, like Motson, cannot resist the compulsion to rabbit incoherently, but his most annoying habit is a small fable of speech that makes one

want to set about the television with a heavy implement. He is a serial user of that most infuriating of all punctuation points, the phrase "you know", but from his lips it comes out as a sort of strangled "yeoww". A tiny point, but it is amazing how irritating it can become.

When the BBC had done its stuff and Chelsea had won by a distance, the baton was handed over to Sky for Chesterfield and Middlesbrough. It had an hour before kick-off in which to examine everything about the game short of finding out the religion of the tea lady's grandad. The BBC, which had been screening the London Marathon, had just ten minutes to set things up.

Sky has a clear idea of what it wants from its team. It wants brightness, it wants

pizzazz and it gets both. It also wants authority and it gets that, too, from Martin Tyler, the best football commentator on British television. Andy Gray, as is his wont, got carried away a touch at times, but his enthusiasm is infectious and the studio team of Steve Bruce, Gary Pallister and Mark Schwarzer, the cup-tied Middlesbrough goalkeeper, were balanced and bright, under the unobtrusive guidance of Richard Keys.

The fact that, in an epic game, ten-man Middlesbrough drew with a gallant Chesterfield side who played far better against their £26-million opponents than anybody had a right to expect was a bonus. That was pure luck. The fact that, on the day, Sky played the Beeb off the park, was not. Yeoww what I mean!

Bangladesh scramble to ICC Trophy win

THE ICC Trophy ended in excitement, confusion and hysteria when Hasibul Hussain scrambled a leg-bye off the last ball of the final to give Bangladesh a victory on run-rate over Kenya at the Kilat Club (a Special Correspondent writes). Bangladesh had been set a revised target of 166 to win off 25 overs in the rain-reduced match.

Maurice Odumbe, the Kenya captain, believed that the final would be tied if a single came from Martin Sufi's last ball and set a field to stop a two being scored. Hussain swung, was hit on the pad and Khaled Mashud, who had hit the first ball of the over for six, raced through to complete a win that started wild celebrations among the 4,000 Bangladesh fans in the ground. In the 1999 World Cup, Bangladesh will now play in a group with Australia, West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand and Scotland.

PFA award to Shearer

FOOTBALL: Alan Shearer, the Newcastle United and England forward, last night became only the second player, after Mark Hughes of Chelsea, to be named player of the year by the Professional Footballers' Association twice in his career. Shearer finished ahead of David Beckham, of Manchester United, who had the consolation of winning the young player award. Ian Wright, the Arsenal forward, who has had a recent revival to his England career, came third in the awards. Shearer won the award in 1995, when he played for Blackburn Rovers.

Close win for Oundle

GOLF: Oundle won the Halford Hewitt Cup by beating Harrow 3-2 in the final of the public schools old boys' competition at Royal Cinque Ports yesterday. Oundle had won their semi-final against Watson's, by the same margin while Harrow reached the final at the expense of Malvern, who went down 4-1. Harrow, who last took the title two years ago, have won the highest proportion of matches in the competition, but found Oundle to be just too good for them.

Whitaker dethroned

BOXING: Oscar de la Hoya claimed a world championship at a fourth different weight by capturing Pernell Whitaker's World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight crown in Las Vegas on Saturday, winning a unanimous points decision. Ryan Rhodes, of Sheffield, will meet Enesley Bingham, of Manchester, in his next bout after his victory over Lindon Scarlett, of London, on Saturday.

Klusener steals show

CRICKET: Lance Klusener produced a memorable all-round performance to help South Africa to a 109-run victory over Australia in the seventh and final one-day international in Bloemfontein yesterday. Klusener hit a career-best 92 in South Africa's 310 for six and then took two wickets and a stunning catch on the boundary to remove Michael Bevan as Australia were removed for 201.

Syed is favoured

TABLE TENNIS: Matthew Syed, the England No 1, expects to achieve some reward during the next week in Glasgow for his decision not to take a job in the world of finance. He will be favourite to win the men's singles title at the 17-nation Commonwealth championships. Syed has been helped by Hong Kong's decision not to take part, which means Chan Kong-Wah is unable to defend the title.

Dooan dominates

MOTOR CYCLING: Michael Dooan, of Australia, was an emphatic winner of the Malaysian Grand Prix in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Dooan, chasing a record-equaling fourth consecutive world 500cc title, rode his new Honda to victory on the Shah Alam circuit with a lead of more than 11sec over Alex Criville, of Spain. Max Biaggi, of Italy, was a clear winner in the 250cc race.

Britain's double loss

ICE HOCKEY: Great Britain suffered their second defeat in two days in pool B of the world championships, losing 4-2 to Kazakhstan in Sosnowiec, Poland, yesterday. Adey and Chinn scored for Great Britain. The result followed a 4-3 loss to Poland in Katowice on Saturday, when Moria, twice, and Scott were the scorers.

Newman on top

BOWLS: Robert Newman, of Whiteknights, Reading, beat David Holt, from Blackpool Borough, 21-20 in the national indoor singles final at Melton Mowbray on Saturday, and, at 22, became the third-youngest champion in the 38-year history of the event. The tense match was not decided until the 27th end, when Newman scored a double.

MOTOR RACING: WILLIAMS ACE FENDS OFF CHALLENGE OF IRVINE IN THRILLING GRAND PRIX FINALE

Villeneuve hangs on for victory tonic

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN
IN BUENOS AIRES

JACQUES VILLENEUVE, dehydrated but determined not to be intimidated by the ominous sight of Eddie Irvine filling his rearview mirror, claimed the most significant victory of his nascent Formula One career in the Argentine Grand Prix yesterday.

Yet the stands at the Oscar A Galvez circuit were a riot of red as Ferrari flags were flaunted in homage to Irvine, the car dealer's son from Newtonards, whose second place represented the sweetest of moral victories.

For the final eight scintillating laps, his car had twitched in the slipstream of Villeneuve's Williams. The French Canadian, suffering from severe stomach problems, had opted to take out the insurance of an additional pitstop, but finished less than a second ahead.

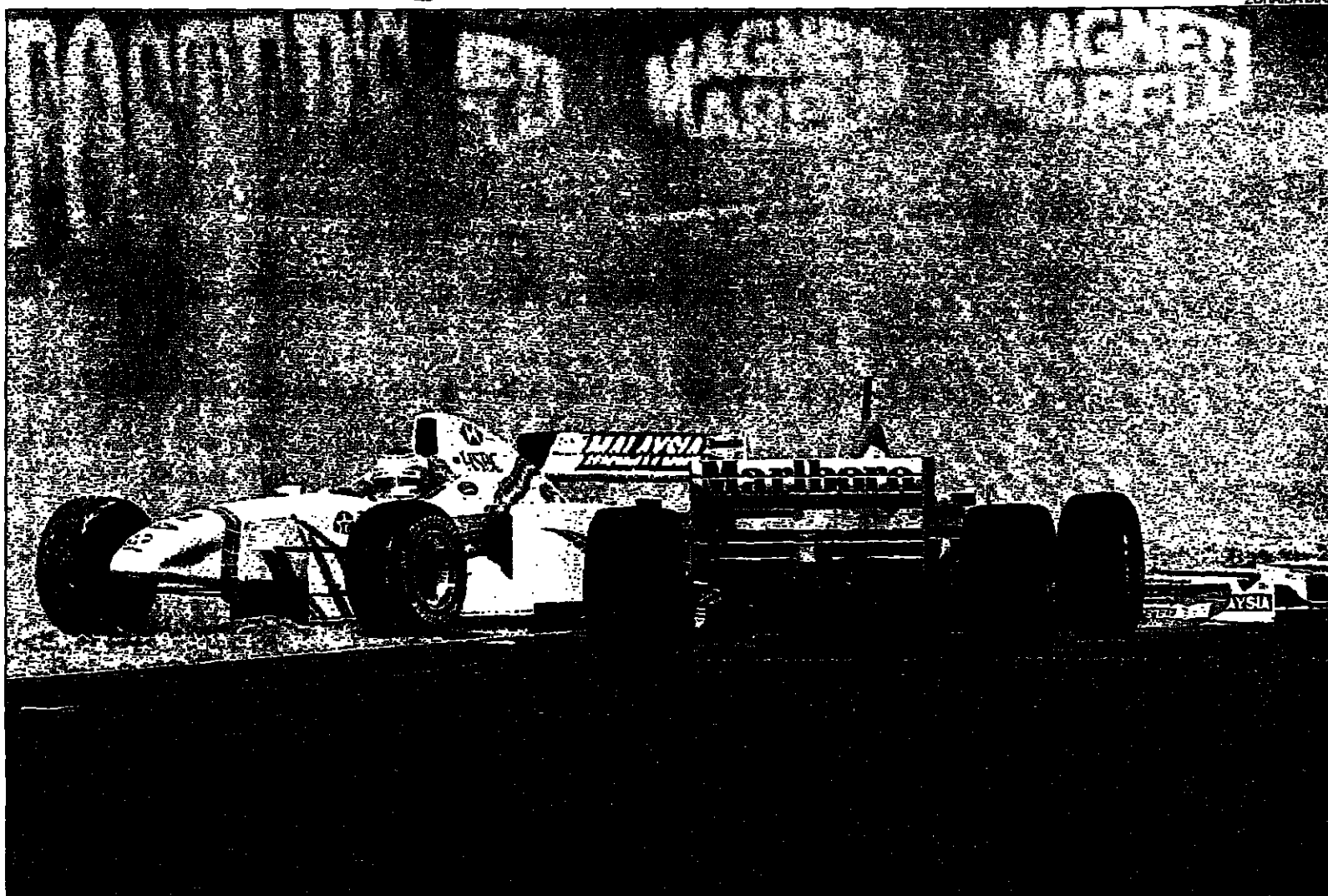
Ralf Schumacher, 12 seconds adrift, finished third to provide some compensation for his culpability in the accident that led to the retirement of his team-mate, Giancarlo Fisichella. Johnny Herbert held off Mika Hakkinen and Gerhard Berger to claim fourth, his best result for Sauber.

Inevitably, given the combustible mixture of emotions unleashed at the start, the 190-mile race around a notoriously claustrophobic circuit was shaped by the 600-yard sprint to the first corner.

The surge away from the line is central to the culture of Formula One. It is its greatest spectacle, a frenzied gesture towards the sport's macho roots. Since it demands the blind aggression of a Buenos Aires taxi driver, and the native cunning of a card sharp, it is a reliable gauge of a driver's character.

The most menacing mind games are played on the grid. In the 30 minutes before the green lights go out, and the cars accelerate away, in the previous race in Brazil, Irvine approached David Coulthard, "I missed you in Australia," he told him, referring to the first-corner accident he triggered at the expense of Villeneuve and Herbert. "but I'll get you this time."

The Scot was momentarily nonplussed. "Irv's absolutely mad, so you never quite know



Michael Schumacher's Ferrari nudges the Stewart-Ford of Barrichello sending him spinning off at the first corner in the Argentine Grand Prix

how to take him," he said. Irvine saw Coulthard again in the paddock on Saturday afternoon and said, with another broad grin: "I'll have you tomorrow." Both men were convinced that the first corner, a tight right-hand bend that tends to confuse the drivers because of its proximity to the old track, held the key to the race. So it proved.

Olivier Panis was the first to succumb, veering violently into the pit lane exit as he sensed the intimidating presence of Irvine's Ferrari accelerating alongside him. Ironically, it was the other Ferrari, driven by Michael Schumacher, that caused the predicted crash.

The German nudged the Stewart-Ford of Rubens Barrichello, which spun into his path. The subsequent collision was sufficiently vio-

lent to terminate his race, and create a melle in which Coulthard's left front wheel was ripped off by Fisichella's Jordan-Peugeot.

The arrival of the safety car, for four procedural laps, offered a brief respite from an attritional contest that gathered further momentum almost immediately, when the Williams of the luckless

Heinz-Harald Frentzen coasted to a halt with gearbox problems.

That elevated Damon Hill to fifth, the highlight of a trying afternoon. He was forced on to the grass by Jean Alesi, who spun in front of him while attempting a typically extravagant overtaking manoeuvre. Hill's Arrows eventually expired on lap 34, by

which time Panis, who briefly emerged as a threat to Villeneuve, had retired with engine failure.

The most galling elimination was endured by Fisichella, in an accident that underlined the dangers of the Jordan team relying on youth. He was running a comfortable second when his team-mate, Ralf Schumacher, tried to

overtake on the inside, made contact, and sent him spinning out.

In a thrilling duel to the flag, Villeneuve, hampered by the heat and blistered tyres, saw a four-second advantage, with 16 laps remaining, quickly whittled down.

It was a situation which suited Irvine's maverick image. He has been under pressure at Ferrari, but responded with characteristic verve. "I got close to him, but backed off, and then went at him. It probably wasn't the best time to do or die," he said.

Villeneuve's sixth grand prix victory equalled the achievement of his father, Gilles, who would have proved of the flamboyance of the occasion. Formula One can stop agonising over its entertainment value for the moment.

ARGENTINE GRAND PRIX DETAILS

RESULT: 1. J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:15.525 (avg speed 164.165 km/h), 2. E. Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 0:01.502, 3. R. Schumacher (Ger, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:20.088, 4. J. Herbert (GB, Sauber) 2:01.919, 5. M. Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 3:01.351, 6. G. Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 3:18.821, 7. J. Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 4:02.552, 8. M. Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 4:10.169, 9. J. Trulli (Jpn, Minardi-Hart) 10:11.000 (last lap), 10. J. Magnussen (Den, Sauber-Ford) 10:11.000.

STEWART-FORD 1:25.942, 6. R. Schumacher 1:26.219, 7. Irvine 1:26.327, 8. Herbert 1:26.564, 9. G. Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:26.619, 10. D. Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:26.788, 11. Alesi 1:27.076, 12. Berger 1:27.259, 13. D. Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:27.281, 14. N. Larini (It, Sauber) 1:27.630, 15. Magnussen 1:28.025, 16. J. Verstappen (Hol, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:28.054, 17. Hakkinen 1:28.125, 18. Trulli 1:28.169, 19. Salo 1:28.224, 20. S. Nakano (Japan, Prost-Jaguar Honda) 1:28.366, 21. U. Kunz (Ger, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:28.413, 22. P. Dini (It, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:28.959.

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1. Villeneuve 28pts, equal 2. Coulthard and Berger 10, 4. Hakkinen 9, 5. M. Schumacher 8, equal 6. Panis and Irvine 6, 8. R. Schumacher 4, Constructors: 1. Williams 20, 2. McLaren-Mercedes 19, 3. Ferrari 14, 4. Benetton-Renault 11, 5. Prost 6, equal 6. Sauber-Petronas and Jordan 4. GRANDS PRIX TO COME: April 29: San Marino (Imola), May 11: Monaco (Monte Carlo), May 25: Spain (Barcelona), June 15: Canada (Montréal), June 29: France (Magny-Cours), July 13: Britain (Silverstone), July 27: Germany (Hockenheim), August 10: Hungary (Hungaroring), August 24: Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps), September 7: Italy (Monza), September 21: Austria (A1 Ring), September 28: Luxembourg (Nürburgring), October 12: Japan (Suzuka), October 26: Portugal (Estoril).

HOCKEY: TEDDINGTON CASH IN ON CONTRAVENTION OF CUP RULES WHILE IPSWICH MISS OUT AGAIN

Cannock cry foul after extra time blunder

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE HA Cup quarter-final between Cannock and Teddington ended yesterday with an official score of 6-1 in favour of Teddington, after 30 minutes of extra time were allowed in contravention of the rules that permit only a total of 15 minutes, 7½ minutes each way.

The full-time score at Teddington of 3-3 became 4-4 in the extra period and, after 85 minutes, the match should have gone to penalty strokes. Instead, play continued beyond the regulation period, during which Teddington scored twice, through Haydon and Wilson.

Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, said: "I am quite unhappy about it. We played the game within the parameters of what we know, but the technical delegates ruled otherwise in this case."

The Hockey Association, which is due to make the draw for the semi-finals today, would appear to have a problem on its hands on a point of law. The fault clearly lay with the technical delegate, who instructed the umpires to play 30 minutes. In such a case, the

umpires have no other option but to carry out the wishes of the technical delegate.

Elsewhere, Surbiton and St Albans joined Reading, the holders, in the last four. Surbiton, who failed to avoid relegation, came back into the spotlight with a 5-1 home win over Guildford. Tinkler and Owen scored two goals each, with Molloy chipping in from a short corner.

Chelmsford's campaign ended at Clarence Park, where St Albans snatched a 2-1 win in stoppage-time, with Port scoring the winning goal.

Chelmsford took the lead through Hawkins in the 28th minute, but then lost their way in the second half. Webster scored from a short corner in the 48th minute to level the score at 1-1.

Old Loughtonians lost 5-2 at home to Reading on Saturday. Reading, who prospered by taking quick shots at goal, had a scare when the home side pulled back from 3-0 down to 3-2, but Ashdown and Pearn made the match safe. Pearn scored three goals and Ashdown two, with Sutton and Thompson replying for Old Loughtonians.

Slough lift their fifth title in eight years

BY ALIX RAMSAY

IF IT is the end of the women's hockey season, it must be Slough at the top of the league. For the fifth time in eight years, the league's most successful campaigners won the title, their 3-1 victory over Hightown on Saturday bringing the season to its inevitable conclusion.

This time last year, it was Hightown who were celebrating their first league title, but, 12 months on, they appear to have collapsed. It took Nicholls just nine minutes to open the scoring and, although Cullen pulled one back, there was little the Liverpool side could do after the break. Wright, from a penalty corner, and Brown, wrapped up the championship.

Two points behind when the day began, Ipswich needed maximum points from their match with Trojans and for Hightown to do them a huge favour. The Suffolk side had missed their chance to take control of the premier division the week before when they lost 2-1 to Slough.

On Saturday, they missed again, this time from the spot. Lister missed a penalty in the last minute and Ipswich had

to make do with a 2-2 draw and second place, four points adrift of Slough.

At least Lister's fluffed shot did Trojans some good. Just ahead of Leicester on goal difference at the bottom of the

table, they needed all the help they could get. One point from the Ipswich match gave them a lifeline, but it needed a Doncaster penalty in the match against Leicester to finally secure their safety.

Leicester were two goals to the good against Doncaster when Smith, with a goal after 62 minutes, and Ferguson, who converted a penalty stroke with 60 seconds left, condemned them to the drop.

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TIME

FREE VOUCHER ON PA

Young American gains admiration of peers and attracts new audience to Masters

Woods takes his place in golf's major league

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA

THE elderly men who stand on the verandah of the Augusta National Golf Club or sit on the lawn outside the clubhouse wearing green jackets and sipping long drinks have seen a few golfing feats down the years, but even the oldest, the ones with the greatest knowledge of golf and the deepest appreciation of the twists and turns of this venerable and enthralling game, had never seen anything remotely approaching what was happening as the 61st Masters moved towards its conclusion.

Woods, like "fabulous", "unbelievable", "incredible" and "awesome" were being banded around to describe the play of Tiger Woods, who was threatening to run away with the title and rattle the very

MASTERS
97

foundations of the Royal and Ancient game.

Woods was on the brink of making history as the fourth round got underway. With a nine-shot lead under his belt, the biggest in the history of the Masters, with the laudatory words, not just of spectators and officials but also of his peers, ringing in his ears and his own powerful game seemingly at its remarkable best after 54 holes, he seemed certain of setting new records.

At 21 years, three months and 15 days old, Woods was the youngest 54-hole leader, nearly two years younger than Severiano Ballesteros in 1980. Woods had set a new record total of 131 — 66, 65 — for the middle two rounds of the tournament, eclipsing Nick Price's 132 — 69, 63 — in 1986. Woods had equalled Ray Floyd's 54-hole total of 201, set in 1976, and had exceeded by one Floyd's eight-stroke lead at the same stage in that year. It is Woods's first major championship as a professional and victory would have meant he equalled the achievement of Jerry Pate, who won the 1976 US Open in his first season out of the ranks of the amateurs.

Yet the most unusual of all the feats that Woods held in his grasp was the way that he was forcing golf into the consciousness of millions of people who had hitherto had little interest in it. The third



The extraordinary achievements of Woods in the first three rounds of the Masters drew torrents of praise even from the most seasoned observers at Augusta National

AHEAD OF THE FIELD

Biggest leads into the final round at the Masters

Shots Year	Player	Three-round total	Final result
9 1987	Tiger Woods	201	won by 8 strokes
8 1976	Raymond Floyd	201	won by 4 strokes
7 1980	Seve Ballesteros	203	second by 5 strokes
6 1996	Greg Norman	203	won by 1 stroke
5 1946	Herman Koster	208	won by 6 strokes
5 1964	Arnold Palmer	211	won by 9 strokes
5 1966	Jack Nicklaus	212	lost playoff
5 1979	Ed Sneed	204	

first major — that's great for all blacks."

Charles Sifford, who, in the 1960s, accused Clifford Roberts, then the chairman of Augusta National, of bending the rules to exclude him from the Masters, said: "It would be my dream come true for Tiger to win. I tried so hard to get the opportunity to play there."

Woods's peers could not have been more unflinching in their praise. "He's lapping the field," Tom Kite said of Woods. "He's a boy among

men yet he's making the men look like boys," Tom Watson said. "This guy, he is in a trance." Jack Nicklaus said: "He's got a chance of demolishing it [the Masters record]. I think we can all go home now."

It was Walter Hagen who used to ask who was going to come second. With 18 holes still to be played, that position was held by Costantino Rocca. He was asked whether he could win. "Too far behind," Rocca, whose command of

English has not improved as fast as his golf, replied, laughing. "I played with Tiger in the 1996 US Open. Much better his swing now." Then Rocca said, impishly: "Maybe if I play nine holes. Maybe. And under par, too."

Woods was averaging nearly 330 yards from the tee and had not used a club longer than a seven-iron for a second shot on a par-four hole. This is hitting such as has never been seen before. Though Woods took 40 to the turn in his first round, he was 19 under par for his next 45 holes. In successive rounds, he had outscored Nick Faldo 70-75, Paul Azinger 66-73 and Colin Montgomerie 65-74.

Montgomerie looked shocked at what he had seen when he finished his third round. "There is no chance, though we are all human beings, that Tiger Woods is going to lose this tournament," Montgomerie said.

MASTERS LEADERBOARD

COMPLETE THIRD-ROUND SCORES

United States unless stated

201: T Woods 70, 66, 65.
210: C Rocca (It) 71, 68, 70.
211: P Stankowski 68, 74, 69.
212: T Kite 77, 69, 66; T Watson 75, 68, 69.
213: J Stuman 74, 67, 72; C Montgomerie (GB) 72, 67, 74.
214: E Els (SA) 73, 70, 71; F Couples 72, 69, 73.
215: D Love 72, 71, 72; J M Olazabal (Sp) 71, 70, 74.
216: F Funk 73, 74, 69; J Pamevnik (Swe) 73, 72, 71; T Toles 72, 72, 72; J Leonard 76, 69, 71.
217: F Zoeller 75, 73, 69; N Price (Zim) 71, 71, 75.
218: T Lehman 73, 76, 69; V Singh (Fiji) 75, 74, 68; S Appleby (Aus) 72, 76, 70; P-U

Johansson (Swe) 72, 73, 73; D Frost (SA) 74, 71, 73; B Langer (Ger) 72, 72, 74.
219: M O'Meara 75, 74, 70; W Wood 72, 76, 71; M Calcavecchia 74, 73, 72; L Janzen 72, 73, 74; J Huston 67, 77, 75; P Azinger 69, 73, 77.
220: C Stadler 77, 72, 71; S Elkington (Aus) 76, 72, 72; S McCarron 77, 71, 72; A Lyle (GB) 73, 73, 74; S Hoch 79, 68, 73; I Woosnam (GB) 77, 68, 75.
221: D Waldorf 74, 75, 72; J Furyk 74, 75, 72; S Torrance (GB) 75, 73, 73; L Westwood (GB) 77, 71, 73; J Nicklaus 77, 70, 74.
222: J Ozaki (Japan) 74, 74, 74; B Crenshaw 75, 73, 74; F Nobilo (NZ) 76, 72, 74; L Mize 79, 69, 74.
227: C Pavin 75, 74, 78; C Rose 73, 75, 79.

The Tiger and The Walrus — a remarkable partnership

He is 21 and already stands on such a distinguished plane that the word Tiger, like the single name Pelé or Ali, identifies the man. Yet, as the world watches the phenomenon of Tiger Woods, transcending the Masters on his own terms, it is evident that he is not alone behind every great golfer, there stands a caddy and this tournament has been shared between the Tiger and the Walrus.

Mike "Fluff" Cowan, a heavily built 49-year-old of redneck appearance, who is old enough to be Tiger's father, appears to provide a soothing influence as well as offering words of encouragement and suggestion. "Michael knows my game," Woods said. "He knows my temperament. We definitely make a great combo."

At the height of yesterday's final round, with complete disdain for the likes of Jack Nicklaus, who were out on the course, CBS Television

screened a one-hour documentary: *Tiger Woods: Son, Hero and Champion*. The film often caught Woods and Cowan together, the game's new superstar and a caddy who is more than a reader of greens. Apparently, he is a pretty good reader of minds as well.

The winner's prize of \$486,000 (£300,000) is little more than pin-money to someone who is already a multi-millionaire, but it could buy Woods the smartest five-bedroom, five-bathroom house on Bobby Jones Drive and the minimum ten per cent per he pays to the caddy could soon put Cowan in a position to afford such real estate too.

As you watch them, it is very clear where the talent lies, as Woods follows 340-yard drives with caressing wedge shots. Few have held their nerve and holed their putts with quite such metronomic consistency — but there is more to this game than

Rob Hughes meets the man always at the side of a golfing phenomenon

mere mechanics. Cowan provides a safety valve, helps provoke laughter as well as providing distances and an input into club selection.

Who is this partner to the player already elevated to Masters legend? Cowan is a failed golfer, but a brilliant

bag-carrier, a white man carrying for a new black champion at a course which has been a bastion of prejudice. The ghosts of Augusta past could never have foreseen what has been happening this week.

Between them, they have reduced the best of British,



Woods listens as Cowan advises on the line of a putt

Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie, to sidesteps: relegated Nicklaus, Palmer and Watson to mere cast members.

It was small comfort to learn that Woods retreats at night to feed on burgers and fries, to loosen up playing table tennis and computer games. A "normal" young man, though, as some observers put it, not yet one who has encountered many of the normal distractions. But he knows about life. His father, Earl, underwent triple heart bypass surgery six weeks ago.

The one man who can see right into the eye of the Tiger is Cowan, who blesses the day, last August, that his regular employer, Peter Jacobsen, who had back trouble, suggested that while he recuperated, his caddy should lend his experience to this newcomer to the tour. Even though Jacobsen is back, he acknowledges that Cowan will be staying with Woods.

Jacobsen concedes that he could not pay anything remotely like the £200,000 per season that Cowan is likely to receive. Cowan, son of a Maine house-painter, given to barnyard one-liners, dismisses as "bullshit" his new young master's praise. "I think Michael is the best caddy in the world," Woods has said. "I don't think anything of the sort," Cowan rejoined. "I love doing what I do, that's for goddamn sure, but caddying is what I do."

Let them disagree. It is the only public distance witnessed between them in this past, astonishing four days. The Walrus has stayed close enough to the Tiger cub to be a restraining, fatherly hand. Woods speaks of growing up, of not forcing the pace, and of mastering arguably the most intimidating terrain in the world of golf. Cowan has much to do with all that, but drawing on a cigarette beneath his moustache, he insisted: "He [Tiger] knows

what his intentions are and what he's going to do about it. "I'm not saying he doesn't feel pressure, but gosh, he's been under the gun so long. The only thing I can tell him, with what's written about him, is to turn off the outer mind. It's a whole lot better listening to the inner mind."

With that, he hitched the bag back onto his own back and shuffled away, trying to keep pace with the young master, something we may all have to learn to do.

SWIMMING

Dead-heat puts Foot call-up in jeopardy

BY CRAIG LORD

LOTTERY funding may not yet have flowed into the pool, but the fickle finger of fate pointed the way of Caroline Foot, who became the 29th and last swimmer to qualify for the European championships at the British trials in Sheffield yesterday.

With a quick glance at the scoreboard, it seemed as though Foot, a seasoned international and in her 33rd year — by far the oldest challenger in the pool — had booked her place on the plane to the championships in Spain in August with a 1min 24.66sec victory in the 100 metres butterfly.

However, the No 2 alongside the name of Susan Rolph was deceptive. She too had clocked 1min 24.66sec, a time outside the qualifying standard. Winners of the trials are awarded automatic selection and soon after the two women had embraced in the spirit of the moment, their coaches went into a huddle. Would there be a deal over the dead-heat, given that Rolph, of Newcastle, had already won the 100 metres freestyle, 200 metres medley and added the 50 metres freestyle early in

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yesterday's session? Apparently not. "The No 1, first place, came up on the scoreboard next to Caroline's name," Paddy Garrett, coach to Foot at the famous old York City Baths club, said. Ian Oliver, the coach to Rolph, 18, disagreed. "No, no, the time is what counts and that was the same."

The coaches did agree that both women, as winners, should race in Seville, but the selectors will be able to deliberate over the matter in the coming months before the national championships in July, when swimmers have a last chance to fill second-string places on the team if they meet the qualifying time standard.

Foot, like all British swimmers, is eagerly awaiting the conclusion of the General Election, her motivation not political, but purely to push along the process of having lottery money dispersed to sport. She has received £100 from the Amateur Swimming Association this month to tide her over, a modest amount but one that has allowed her to cut down on teaching swimming in favour of practising it herself.

Andrew Ayers, 21, from Swansea, yesterday became the only non-English swimmer (discounting Graeme Smith, the Stockport-raised and trained Anglo-Scot) to make the team for Seville. His victory in the 200 metres breaststroke came in a Welsh record of 2mins 16.32sec.

Ayers, one of those rare Welshmen who says he "can't stand rugby", will be in Gwent this week for the World short-course championships, hoping to capitalise on a winter's work that has seen his strength increase and his style take on a resemblance to that of Nick Gillingham, the retired former triple European champion.

EQUESTRIANISM: BRITISH RIDERS FIRST AND THIRD IN WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Whitaker triumphs in jump-off

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR
IN 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH,
HOLLAND

MICHAEL WHITAKER, of Great Britain, was given a standing ovation here yesterday when he and Virtual Village Ashley beat Hugo Simon, of Austria, and ET, the holders of the World Cup, by 0.38sec to win the Volvo World Cup qualifier.

Nick Skelton finished third on his Olympic mare, Virtual Village Showtime, to qualify for the final in Sweden next month, but Robert Smith failed to get through, having eight faults on Tees Hanauer.

For Michael Whitaker, yesterday marked a turning point. Despite leading the European League for the World Cup, this was his first

win of the season. More significantly, it confirmed the calibre of Ashley, his 1994 Foxhunter champion, who was an invaluable aide since Two Step, Whitaker's top horse, was sidelined through injury last year. The nine-year-old gelding finished third in the London qualifier in December and was runner-up in Bologna in February.

"It's the fastest I've been against the clock with him," Whitaker said after the tense, eight-horse jump-off in which he had the advantage of going last. "He's a fantastic horse and he's looked like winning on one or two occasions this season — I'm just pleased he's now done it."

Skelton, whose determined riding was at odds with his assertion that he was "unwor-

ried" about qualifying, was no less delighted with Showtime. "I haven't made many jump-offs recently," Skelton said. "but I felt from the start of the competition she was jumping well." He was visibly relieved when he checked the standings in the European League that confirmed him in sixteenth place. The top 18 qualify.

Henk Drabbe, the Dutch designer, had built one of the most difficult and imaginative courses of any qualifier this season for the opening round, John Whitaker, on Welham, and Geoff Billington, on It's Otto, incurred four and eight faults respectively, but their high positions in the league had already assured them of qualification.

Ludger Beerbaum, of

Germany, a team gold medal-winner at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, also missed the jump-off after posting four faults on Raina, his 1993 World Cup-winner.

On Saturday, Anky van Grunsven, of Holland, completed her third successive win in the Volvo World Cup dressage final after an outstanding performance in the freestyle to music competition on Geston Bonfire, her Olympic silver medal-winner.

Richard Davison, Britain's only contender, who rode a disappointing grand prix test on Thursday, redeemed himself with a stylish performance on his Olympic horse, Hiscox Askari, in the freestyle to music that lifted him to ninth place.

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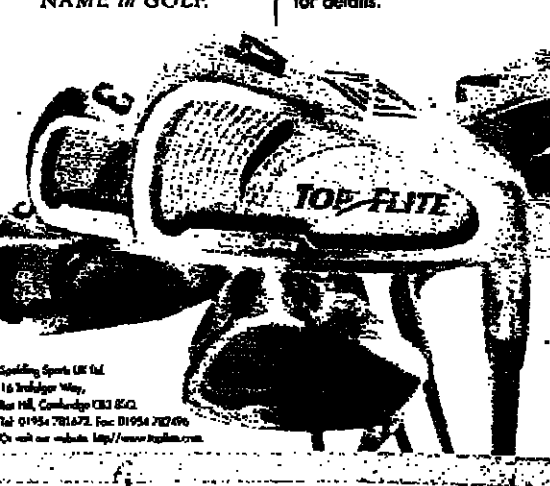
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TUESDAY

10 P

TIMES

SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2.

OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

Underdogs summon extra effort to take Middlesbrough to FA Cup semi-final replay

Chesterfield refuse to be denied

Chesterfield 3
Middlesbrough 3
(aet; score at 90min: 2-2)

By DAVID MILLER

AN EPIC and controversial FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday reached its climax with Chesterfield, from the Nationwide League second division, drawing level against Middlesbrough thanks to Jamie Hewitt's header a bare minute from the end of extra time. Once more the sea of blue-and-white spectators erupted while the massed red ranks of North East followers fell glumly silent, denied for the second consecutive week in the last gasp of a cup-tie.

Hewitt's goal was as cruel a blow for them as Emile Heskey's was in the Coca-Cola Cup final for Leicester City



last week, yet Middlesbrough were indeed lucky even to be still alive at that point. In a semi-final beyond fictional invention it was Chesterfield, with an hour gone, who had stood on the brink of history.

None of the seven sides from the third division of English football to reach an FA Cup semi-final has had a more famous chance of being in the final, but 2-0 up against a Middlesbrough side reduced to ten men with Vladimir Kinkor's sending-off, John Duncan's improbable heroics had the FA Carling Premiership team by the throat.

Then the imminence of glory overwhelmed them. They all but stopped playing. Suddenly, belatedly, Middlesbrough really started. Should they win the replay at Hillsborough a week tomorrow, perhaps they should go out against Chelsea at Wembley a man short. Yesterday, the experience raised Ravanelli and Juninho to a level of co-ordination unseen while the team was at full strength.

Yet even when, within four minutes of Dyche's penalty that put Chesterfield two-up,



Roberts, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, is stranded as Hewitt's last-gasp header maintains Chesterfield's hopes of creating Cup history

Ravanelli cut back the lead, Chesterfield responded with a legitimate goal disallowed by David Elleray, the referee. With 68 minutes gone, Howard, taking a ball from the left in space just outside the six-yard area by the far post, turned and drove against the crossbar. The ball bounced behind the line, the linesman flagged for a goal. Elleray, a few yards away, allowed play to continue before blowing for a foul by Morris, the Chesterfield striker, as he attempted to reach the rebound.

Within two minutes, Middlesbrough undeservedly were level, and there was even doubt about the legitimacy of their penalty, by Hignett. Dyche's lunging challenge on Juninho appeared to be committed just beyond the penalty area line, Juninho falling inside.

Now Chesterfield's impetus, their willpower, seemed spent. At last they were exposed for what they are: mid-table in the lower reaches of the professional game, with all the

predictable limitations. Middlesbrough's attacks now buzzed around them, making the 11 men seem outnumbered. Ten minutes into extra time, Festa, who had come up for a corner, scored what surely would prove the winner. This extraordinary semi-final had a twist yet to come.

It had been predicted that Chesterfield would be lost in the grand environment of Old Trafford, but they were initially to display a splendid immu-

nity to stage fright. The first ten minutes, in boxing terms, was theirs on points.

Then, however, Middlesbrough took charge, dominating the rest of the first half. If your team cannot pass accurately, it does not matter whether you are at Saltergate or the Maracana, you will have problems. Howard, Holland and Curtis now had plenty. The switching between Hignett, Emerson, Mustoe and Juninho baffled them,

and often only Dyche stood with a mean flourish. With Howard's goal evaporating, Hignett's penalty spell doom for the underdogs.

Extra time, with Chesterfield now a disjointed rabble, had to bring a Middlesbrough winner, and appeared to do so when Vickers hit the bar for Festa to score on the rebound... with Juninho clearly offside in the goalmouth. Again undetected.

Middlesbrough maintained their minority control, only to be dumfounded when a despairing last cross from Beaumont, substitute for Holland, cleared two defenders, bounced high, and was looped over Roberts by Hewitt's head. Pandemonium. Try explaining this one to your grandchildren.

Chesterfield, themselves, have fallen behind with their Nationwide League commitments. Duncan, however, was determined not to worry about that as he praised his side. "I am just so proud of all of my players and the supporters," he said.

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Duncan refuses to cross line of controversy

Richard Hobson on the decision that may deny Chesterfield a Wembley place

John Duncan, the Chesterfield manager, produced a dignified, phlegmatic reaction on hearing that a perfectly good goal that would have given his side a potentially decisive 3-1 lead, and probably a place in football history, had been denied his Nationwide League second division side.

Television replays showed that a shot from Jonathan Howard in the 68th minute had rebounded from the underside of the crossbar and crossed the goal line. David Elleray, the referee, blew for an offence and suggested that he had penalised Andy Morris, the Chesterfield forward, after the ball had come down from the bar.

However, Elleray added to the confusion in a later statement. He said: "I have seen the video and I accept that the ball crossed the line, but I blew for an infringement before the shot. There was so much going on there I could have made eight or ten decisions."

Paul Holland, one of the nearest Chesterfield players to the incident, implored Elleray to reconsider his decision and told Duncan that the ball had indeed crossed the line when he was substituted ten minutes later.

Duncan said: "I believe the goal should have been allowed and that would have put us in a strong position, but nobody could say with any certainty that we would have gone on to win the game. At the moment, I cannot say I feel disappointed because nobody knows how it would have affected the outcome of the match."

Geoff Hurst's shot against West Germany in the World Cup final at Wembley 31 years ago still provokes argument and the incident yesterday is likely to reopen the debate on whether video replays should be introduced to assist with decision-making for certain aspects of the game. The

competition this season has been bedevilled by controversy that could have been avoided by the use of television.

Duncan felt that such replays were plausible in incidents such as this, but also pointed out the practical difficulties of having a camera positioned in the right spot. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, believed that the "goal" was offside earlier in the move. His own qualms with Elleray were brought about by the first half sending-off of Vladimir Kinkor in the 37th minute.

Looking forward, Robson has the difficult task of attempting to raise his players after 120 minutes here for the Coca-Cola Cup final replay against Leicester City on Wednesday. In the longer term, Middlesbrough's lengthening fixture list may force the FA Premier League to reconsider the decision last week not to extend the season.

The semi-final replay will take place on April 22 at Hillsborough, the day before Middlesbrough are due to play away to Tottenham Hotspur. The game at White Hart Lane will have to be rearranged, but, with international matches scheduled for later this month, Robson is facing the possibility of having to play five games in the final nine days.

Robson said: "I do not think that any side should play three games in a seven-day period. They need 48 hours' rest after a game and that is what the medical people think, not just me."

Chesterfield, themselves, have fallen behind with their Nationwide League commitments. Duncan, however, was determined not to worry about that as he praised his side. "I am just so proud of all of my players and the supporters," he said.

Liverpool muddle through to keep hopes alive

Sunderland 1
Liverpool 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

THE wheels have not quite fallen off the Liverpool wagon after all. At times during this excruciatingly nervous match, they were forced to circle in a

desperate attempt to repel Sunderland's uncomplicated assault, but the victory ensures that they keep rolling forward.

After enduring painful defeats by Coventry City and Paris Saint-Germain, anything would do. For long periods, it was far better than that as Liverpool exerted a

surprisingly easy control, given the desperate position of their opponents. However, apart from a 20-minute spell in the second half, they appeared to lose their heads in defence and backed off to the aerial threat of Stewart and Quinn, the substitute.

Ultimately, though, Liverpool did not pay for such generosity because of the contribution of a new-look forward pairing, put together in the absence of the injured Collymore. McManaman joined the prolific Fowler and both found the net.

The pair provided movement and, more importantly, an ability to hold the ball and prevent it returning quickly back towards a defence that was uncomfortable under pressure. Too often this season, that quality has been lacking and Liverpool have conceded sloppy goals.

Fowler struck the first blow after 32 minutes. It was his thirtieth goal of the season, the

third consecutive season he has reached that impressive milestone, and came during a period in which Redknapp's passing had claimed a fair degree of control for his side. Sunderland failed to clear a corner, allowing Bjornebye to drift in a cross from the right. Wright headed down, despite a clattering challenge from Perez, the Sunderland goalkeeper, and Fowler had the simplest of opportunities from close range.

Earlier, McManaman had been frustrated by the little but eccentric French goalkeeper and Redknapp had shot wide when well-placed, but such chances were evidence that Sunderland were feeling the pressure of being in the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership and they simply could not match Liverpool for the first hour.

The return of Thomas to the Liverpool midfield had much to do with that and the visitors produced a second goal minutes

after the interval when Fowler ran on to an intelligent ball from Harkness and pulled back the perfect cross for McManaman to score, left-footed, his tenth goal of the season.

Afterwards, McManaman joked that he has now scored more goals than several centres forwards, but he was more serious when admitting the significance of his contribution. The goal allowed Liverpool a breathing space when their confidence appeared to desert them as soon as Sunderland pulled a goal back with what was, at that point, a rare excursion into the Liverpool box.

Peter Reid's side had looked dead and buried and, indeed, a fair bet to fall through the relegation trapdoor, but a corner from Waddle found Stewart poorly marked by Wright and he glanced an impressive header beyond the unprotected James.

The goal illustrated perfect-

ly Liverpool's propensity to panic when under the slightest pressure. Their big mistake was to drop off the Sunderland forwards and allow them possession too easily, but a mixture of sheer incompetence and sheer good fortune allowed them to muddle through for a victory that leaves them three points behind Manchester United.

"It was a test for us after the last week and also after conceding that goal, but we got through it," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "The title is just about in our hands, but we have the toughest run-in of anybody." Given that their next two games are against Everton and United, Evans could not be criticised for such a gloomy prognosis.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-3): R. Roberts - C. Fleming, S. Vickers, G. Festa, V. Kinkor - C. Hignett (sub: A. Moore, 115min), Emerson, R. Mustoe, Juninho - F. Ravanelli, M. Beck (sub: C. Blackmore, 40).
CHESTERFIELD (3-5-2): W. Meisner - M. Williams, S. Dyche, M. Jones - J. Hewitt, T. Curtis, P. Holland (sub: C. Beaumont, 74), J. Howard, C. Perkins (sub: D. Carr, 65) - K. Davies, A. Morris.
Referee: D. Elleray.

Batty aims Toon Army at Europe

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Newcastle United 1

By ANDREW LONGMORE

HILLSBOROUGH on FA Cup semi-finals day will always house its share of ghosts. Yesterday, some unfinished business in the FA Carling Premiership filled the ground to near capacity, but half an eye was still kept on the events across the Pennines. The biggest cheer of the afternoon was reserved for news of Chesterfield's heroics.

For the massed ranks of black-and-white shirts, anything perhaps to distract from the workmanlike qualities of their own team. With Batty and Shearer at the heart of a rigid 4-4-2 formation, the resemblance to Dalglish's title-winning and deeply-unloved Blackburn Rovers side is becoming uncomfortably clear to the Toon Army, who have yet to decide whether success is worth the sacrifice.

It is not hard to envisage Newcastle, a year on, taking a point from an end of season scrap like this and edging towards the championship. By then, the thrills of Ginola and Asprilla in full flight will have passed into memory and the Keegan era condemned as a expensive failure or lauded as a sepia-tinted golden age. But the Newcastle directors knew what they were getting in Dalglish: their team's newfound solidity, a few defensive capers apart, augurs well. They emerged from Hillsborough with a deserved point, courtesy of a first half goal by Robbie Elliott, and a place in the UEFA Cup still is theirs for the taking.

Both managers stated their intent on their team sheets. This was no place for idle experiment. Dalglish had the most expensive and gifted bench-warmers in the game in Ginola and Asprilla; David Pleat has insisted on using Regi Blinker sparingly in recent weeks and brought the Dutchman on for barely the last quarter of a staccato, largely incoherent, game.

So the field was left to David Batty, whose combative nature will be felt in aching Wednesday limbs this morning. The England international was the

most influential player on view, but not necessarily for the best reasons. His late tackle left Walker prostrate after six minutes; moments later, another stray boot brought Booth crashing to the turf. Batty was booked, both were stretchered off and both had to be replaced. Booth 20 minutes into the game, Walker just before half-time, which disrupted any glimpse of Wednesday's rhythm.

Carbone too, staring where he left off on Wednesday night, in his bright green boots but without the panache, was forced, in Hirst's absence through injury, to play alongside Booth at the front when his most effective post is behind the front two. He fashioned Wednesday's equaliser just after half-time, bearing Beresford on the byline before crossing for Pembroke.

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Brighton united 32

to thump home a sweet volley, but it was only in the last 20 minutes, as Newcastle pressed for a winner and Blinker began to exploit some space down the left, that the little Italian came into his own.

Not surprisingly, Shearer looked a yard or two short of pace on his second game back after injury. A header that flashed over the bar, in the opening minutes and a free-kick well saved by Pressman was the sum of his afternoon's work, hard though he hustled and harried.

Ferdinand was equally anonymous and, by the end, Wednesday had two makeshift strikers on view and little to show for some intricate passing in midfield. Dalglish was delighted with the work ethic of his side. Batty, Pleat suggested, might have been sent off. He was roundly booed off, offering an assassin's smile in acknowledgement for a job well done.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K. Pressman - S. Meisner (sub: R. Binkor, 70min), D. Shearer, D. Wether (sub: W. Collins, 60), I. Nolan - G. Waddock, S. Collins, P. Asprilla, M. Pembroke - S. Carbone, A. Booth (sub: R. Humphreys, 20).
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S. Dalglish - W. Banton, D. Peacock, S. Watson, J. Beresford - K. Ginola, R. Lee, D. Batty, Scott - L. Ferdinand, A. Shearer (sub: F. Asprilla, 67).
Referee: G. Butler.

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Winter break could end fixture chaos

The row about extending the season rumbles on and you cannot help but sympathise with some of the points made by Alex Ferguson. He is right in the sense that the FA Carling Premiership fixture list is hardly conducive to assisting English clubs in Europe.

What the Manchester United manager seems unable to grasp, though, is the fact that it is not only his side playing a ridiculous amount of games in a short space of time. He wants the season extended because United's last four games must be played in the space of nine days, while we have three during the same period - but our busy time comes now. We have already started a spell of four games in nine days and the next week will decide our season.

It is an issue of fairness. Other sides have had a concentration of matches at different times. The fuss comes because United have theirs in the last week and the natural thing is to try to extend the season. You can understand Ferguson's way of thinking - he is only trying to do the best for his club - but if they were the only team to have an exten-

STEVE McMANAMAN



sion, it would probably be an unfair advantage.

We are in the same boat. Look at this week - we must play three league games in six days and two of them are traditionally our hardest of the season. We have Sunderland already, and it was an important victory given events in Paris, but we still have to beat Everton and Manchester United if we are to stand any chance of winning the title.

It is not the number of games that is the problem. This is not another footballer moaning about doing the job he is paid for. More, it is the

physical demand such an intensity of games makes on the body. At this level, the football is so fast and physical that players inevitably get knocked. When you play Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday, there is little opportunity to recover.

There is no problem if everyone is fully fit, because we get great satisfaction out of playing in these important matches, but we have to play Manchester United on Saturday in a game against one of England's best clubs and we have to win it. If we don't, then we can forget about the title.

United know it is an important game, too, but they will not have played for seven days. I don't think that is a situation that is tipped against United, as Ferguson suggests.

We have not had the ideal preparation with the defeat in Paris. We cannot escape from it. We played very poorly. We were too slow and our passing wasn't good enough and we paid for that.

Everton on Wednesday will be a scrap. Then comes United. We have to be confident, because we have a decent record against them in recent seasons, but again they will need no motivating and it is

going to be some game. The biggest problem, apart from the sheer physical toll, is just how draining, mentally, matches can be. But at least we will not need to lift ourselves.

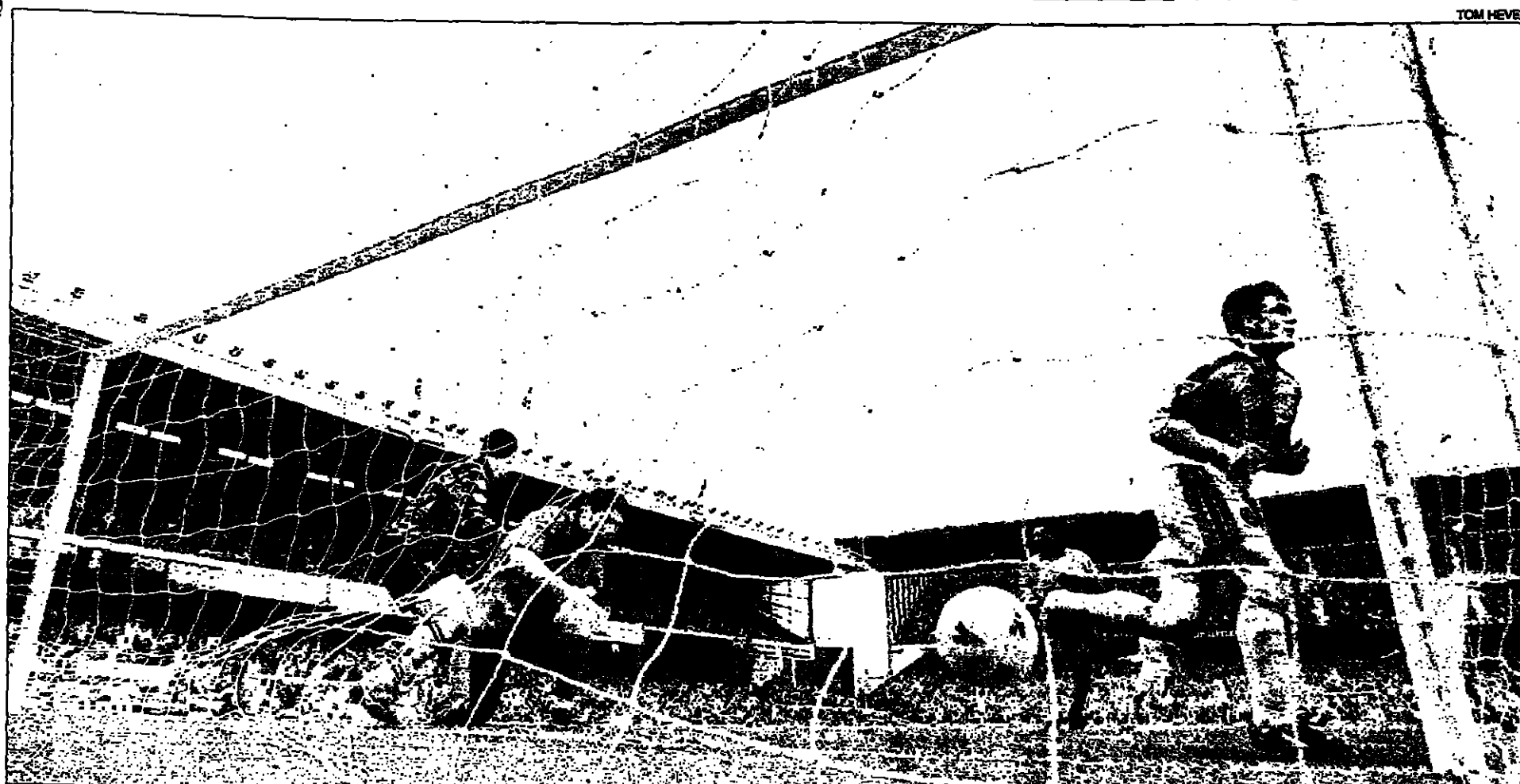
It is not ideal, though. Nothing can be done about it this season, but for the future I suggest the authorities must make a concerted effort to resolve the problem.

One simple solution would be to reduce the Premiership to 18 clubs. I know there are financial pressures that have prevented this in the past, but the time has surely come to grasp the nettle.

Our manager has suggested that we play all internationals on Saturdays and that is another good idea, and maybe there is no real need for the League Cup any more. Perhaps the best solution would be to have a winter break and then extend the season until the end of May, or even into June.

We don't necessarily play too many games, but we do in comparison to other European teams and that gives us a massive disadvantage in European competitions. If we want to win them, then we are going to have to change.

Chelsea cruise to FA Cup Final after Italian forward's virtuoso display demolishes Wimbledon



Hughes turns away after cracking home the first of his two goals from close range just before half-time to give Chelsea the breakthrough in the FA Cup semi-final at Highbury

Impudent Zola provides the star turn

Chelsea 3
Wimbledon 0

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE was a hush in the room when Gianfranco Zola climbed up on the dais and sat down behind the table. When he began to speak, it was almost in a whisper, as if the genius that he had drawn on to drag Chelsea clear of Wimbledon in their FA Cup semi-final at Highbury yesterday had drained him of everything he had.

If Chesterfield and Middlesbrough cornered the semi-final market in drama, Zola provided the individual star turn of the afternoon. His was a virtuoso performance, full of twists and turns that bamboozled the Wimbledon defenders who were supposed to strike fear into him, dotted with daring runs and stinging shots and capped by a story-book goal.

As the sentences fell haltingly from his mouth, though, as he looked occasionally for approval to Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, who was sitting beside him, there

was steel in the softness of his words just as there had been bite to his brilliance on the pitch.

His performance against Wimbledon, he said, was just the beginning of the fulfilment of a promise that he had made to himself as he left Wembley two months ago almost to the day, having scored the Italian goal that beat England and left their World Cup hopes in the balance.

"When I left Wembley after I had scored that goal for Italy," he said, "I promised myself that I would come back because the atmosphere there was unbelievable. I wanted to go back there with Chelsea and, now that I have that opportunity, I want to repeat the performance I made with Italy. I have one month to prepare for the FA Cup Final and I will do everything I can to be in perfect form."

On the evidence of yesterday and much more that has been witnessed at Stamford Bridge, he is close to perfect already. Chelsea spent much of the first half bogged down in a war of attrition with an unreconstructed Wimbledon side that seemed to have reverted to a watered-down form of their long-ball game. When Zola and Hughes tried to get the ball back on the floor, it was like watching men



wearing life-jackets trying to go deep-sea diving. In the end, it was Zola who came up for air.

Two minutes before half-time, as yet another semi-final seemed to be turning into a dreadful anticlimax, Zola waited for a glorious cross-field ball from Leboeuf to fall at his feet. He trapped it so that it did not move more than a few inches from where it fell and then ran at Cunningham, before slipping a reverse pass into Wise's path.

Wise produced a curling cross that flew across the Wimbledon area and, as Burley bore in on it at the far post, Kimble tried to hook it clear but only succeeded in prodding it into the body of Hughes. It fell kindly for the Wales striker, who will now equal a record by appearing in a fifth FA Cup Final, and he volleyed it into the net from two yards out.

The second half provided Zola with

the perfect stage. Wimbledon began to chase the game, committing themselves ever more boldly to attack against a Chelsea central defence of Johnsen and Leboeuf that matched them header for towering header and a goalkeeper, Grodas, who belied his reputation for being suspect against crosses. As the Wimbledon attacks foundered, space opened up in mid-field and Zola filled it.

Twenty minutes into the second half, he delivered the *coup de grace*, the piece of skill that broke the indomitable spirit of Wimbledon, forced them to realise that they were up against someone that no amount of spirit and effort could contain.

It was an innocuous enough ball that Di Matteo threaded through to Zola on the edge of the Wimbledon penalty area. Blackwell was shadowing him closely, but, as Zola ran on to it, he suddenly flicked it through his own legs, changing direction sharply and flat-footing his marker. Then he moved the ball on with one touch and curled it right-footed beyond Sullivan's despairing hand into the bottom left-hand corner.

Six minutes later, he nearly added to his tally when he dribbled past the increasingly dishevelled Blackwell as

if he was not there and hit a 20-yard drive against Sullivan's right-hand post with the goalkeeper well beaten. By now, he was running through tackles, the ball bouncing back to him off the legs of defenders as if it was glued to his feet.

Hughes added his second goal, his seventh in his past seven games, in the dying seconds with a fierce left-foot shot that flew into the roof of the net in front of the mass ranks of Chelsea fans, but, as the man who may soon be able to claim more FA Cup success than anyone in the modern game took his place beside his strike partner after the match, he acknowledged his debt to Zola.

"He was not bad today, was he?" Hughes said, with a smile. "If he keeps playing like that, he has got a chance. I didn't see his goal because I was too busy running around trying to make a few angles, but I will sit back with a few beers in front of the television tonight and enjoy it with everybody else."

Chelsea (4-4-2): F Grodas — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, E Johnsen, S Clarke — C Burley, E Newton, R Di Matteo, D Wise — G Zola, M Hughes. Wimbledon (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — N Ardley (sub: D Holdsworth, 65min), V Jones, O Leonhardsen — E Gbure, M Gayle.

Referee: G Ashby.

Wimbledon in retreat to sound of silence

Russell Kempson on the pain endured by Highbury's beaten semi-finalists

Joe Kinnear is a fine orator. Most of his press conferences soon deteriorate into humorous, if somewhat ribald, soliloquies laced with fruity expletives and bolstered by statistics that often bear little resemblance to reality. He inadvertently plays the professional Irishman, duping those present with his irreverent mix of bluster and blarney.

Yesterday, at Highbury, was not one of his finer moments. As the almost deserted stadium echoed to the sound of clinking glasses from the executive boxes high in the Clock End, the Wimbledon manager strode in to the post-match inquest. He was asked one question, semi-purged his soul and departed. It lasted little more than three minutes; it was hell on earth when heaven, a place in the FA Cup Final, had been so close.

"I've had a long chat with the players and told every one of them how proud I am of what they have achieved this season," he said, eyes to the floor, desperate to be anywhere but North London. "We've not been out of the top eight in the league since September and have reached both cup semi-finals. There is plenty to be proud of."

Factually, he was correct; emotionally too. A return to Wembley had twice fluttered within grasp, only to be wrenched away. Respect had been attained, pride had been regained, but there was nothing but emptiness.

Only a month ago, Kinnear's eclectic bunch of home-grown players and Nationwide League cast-offs had been pursuing credibility on three fronts. Defeat on away goals terminated their Coca-Cola Cup adventure, against Leicester City, the FA Carling Premiership dream gradually receded amid a welter of fixtures and, yesterday, their FA Cup flame died, too.

Qualification for Europe, via a high finish in the league, remains a possibility, albeit

remote. "We've got to go full blast until the end of the season and hope," Kinnear said, a smidgeon of defiance emerging from beneath the vale of gloom. "Clutching" and "straws" were the words on everybody's lips as he rose to his feet. Out of deference or sympathy, nobody dared utter them until he had left.

High Noon at Highbury did not spin a tale of Beauty versus Beast or Good versus Evil. Such an assumption is crass and outdated. Though Wimbledon may not possess the Latin sophistication of Zola and Di Matteo, they have long since shrugged off the long-ball noose that had been hung, fairly if patronisingly, around their necks. During international weeks, Kinnear now loses a large percentage of his squad.

Perry, Leonhardsen and Cunningham would earn regular slots in most Premiership sides; Earle and Ardley blend craft with graft; Gayle and Ekoku chase and challenge all day. But for the lack of serious financial muscle to complement his cheap cuts, Kinnear could have been contemplating a campaign in Turkey or Tbilisi next season.

Chelsea's supporters celebrated wildly. Chants of "Zola", to the tune of The Kinks' Sixties hit single, rang around the ground and Ruud Gullit, the non-playing Chelsea player-manager, embraced the shaven-headed Vialli as if their fall-out had been nothing more than a lovers' tiff.

Wimbledon's smaller contingent of fans drifted away slowly and silently. "Just imagine if we beat those jumped-up continentals from the Bridge," the editorial in *Hoof The Ball Up*, the club fanzine, had hypothesised. "Vinnie Jones hoisting the Cup in front of 150 million worldwide television viewers ... Oh, stop it!" Chelsea did.

10p

THE TIMES

TUESDAY

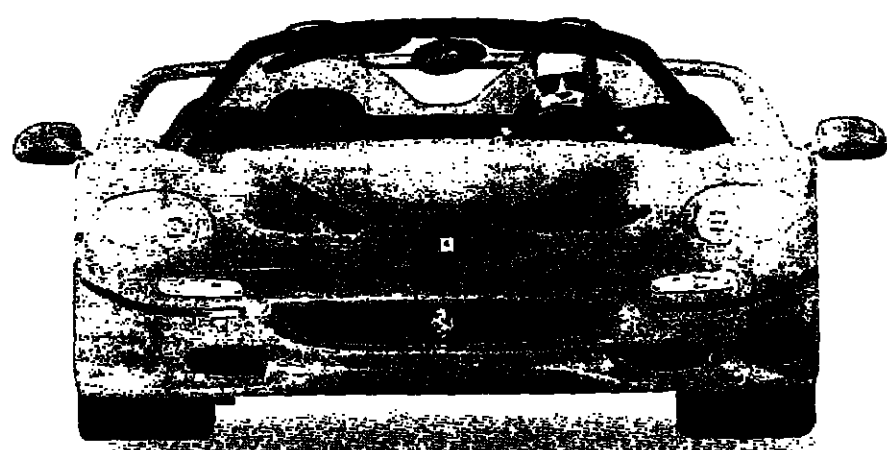
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FOOTBALL: CHAMPIONS BOUNCE BACK FROM DEFEAT IN EUROPE TO KEEP UP PRESSURE IN TITLE RACE

Cole fires United's challenge on run-in

Blackburn Rovers 2
Manchester United 3

By DAVID MILLER

IT USED to be said that Sir Matt Busby was able to keep happy his so-called Babes team of the mid-Fifties, with half a dozen "reserves" of international standard, such as young Bobby Charlton and David Pegg, only because of the league's proprietorial maximum wage of £18. Manchester United will now probably retain the FA Carling Premiership title because they can afford unlimited wages for reserves such as Andy Cole, not to mention Paul Scholes and Phil Neville. Casting off the burdens of a dark week — defeat by Borussia Dortmund, injuries to Schmeichel, May, Irvine and Giggs and the rightful refusal of the FA Premier League selectively to extend United's season — Alex Ferguson's team made light of defeating a competitive but ordinary Blackburn Rovers.

The comparison was stark. With Sutton unfit, Blackburn's deputy lone forward was ... Warhurst. Pallister and Johnsen, United's central defenders, enjoyed a relaxed afternoon at Ewood Park.

Cole, for so long the £7 million misfit, admittedly scored United's first goal after half an hour and, after McKinlay had put Blackburn

level within three minutes, deftly made the second and third goals for Scholes and Cantona respectively.

"I don't think we'll see Cole out of the team now," a satisfied and relieved Ferguson said afterwards. Cole, however, will not find Dortmund at Old Trafford as cooperative as Blackburn were on Saturday.

Against the known caution of a 4-5-1 formation with which Tony Parkes, the Blackburn caretaker manager, has attempted to avert the threat of relegation — which still remains — Ferguson adopted an audacious 4-3-3 formation, putting the clock back 20 years. The brave, blond Hendry, cornerstone of Blackburn's past prime, tumbled about in a cascade of lunging limbs as he tried to halt United's superiority.

"You get punished for success," Parkes said, adding his agreement to the principle that it is wrong to play individual matches after the season is finished.

"Success" meant that, on Saturday, Ferguson chose to rest the weary young Beckham and promote Scholes. "I went for freshness," Ferguson said. He has the depth to have done so. It was Butt, however, who was the man of the match.

By playing three in mid-field, Ferguson risked losing the possession battle to Blackburn's five. The threat lasted



Sherwood, left, of Blackburn, tangles in mid-air with Phil Neville in the home defeat by Manchester United

no more than ten minutes. The technique and timing of passing between Butt, Keane and Scholes, linking with Cantona behind the front two, soon made McKinlay, Sherwood and Filcroft look pedestrian. Only on the few occasions when Blackburn got the ball wide to Gallacher and Wilcox did they occasionally play like their old selves.

Parkes, reliable, strong-willed but a definitive No 2, said he was "not concerned" that they had lost to the country's best team and that playing with five in mid-field was the only option "to make it difficult for United ... I don't think you can outplay them".

Roy Hodgson will have to think differently when he takes charge in the summer. What Parkes was planning, in effect, was controlled defeat. That is what he got. He is right to be "a bit anxious", worried that games are running out. Blackburn had been gleeful when, after 23 minutes, Flowers saved a penalty by Cantona, moving early to a poorly-struck shot. Flowers and his colleagues had vainly protested that Kenna's foul on a spreadeagled Butt was innocent.

Ten minutes later, United were in front. Berg exchanged passes, Cantona glided a con-

cealed pass, as only he can, into the path of Cole on the left and his hooked left-footed shot found Hendry, Berg and Flowers stranded.

Blackburn immediately rallied. When Van der Gouw punched clear a free kick, McKinlay struck it low in the left-hand corner of the net. Then from Gallacher's cross, Warhurst shot at Van der Gouw, a goalkeeper who suggests he will ably deputise for Schmeichel.

United continued to be the more imaginative and three minutes before half-time Cole, under extreme pressure from markers, squeezed the perfect diagonal pass to Scholes on

the right and he swept home a stunning first-time low drive.

The start of the second half found Blackburn back-pedalling in disorder and other goals might have come before Cole, sidestepping Berg near the byline, dribbled towards the near post before rolling a pass to Cantona's right foot a few yards from the goalmouth. Warhurst's late goal hardly threatened the result.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-3): T. Flowers (sub: G. Dorr, 29), T. Sherwood, W. McKinlay, G. Filcroft (sub: P. Pedersen, 82), J. Wilcox — P. Warhurst.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): R. van der Gouw — G. Neville, G. Pallister, R. Johnsen, P. Neville — N. Butt, R. Keane, Scholten (sub: D. Blackman, 88) — E. Cantona — G. Scholes, A. Cole.

Referee: M. Bodenham

Secondary qualities fit in with thinking of Wenger

Arsenal 2
Leicester City 0

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

YOU Get Nowt For Coming Second was the title of the autobiography of that incorrigible competitor, Billy Bremner, but in these days of football's elephantiasis, you do. Not quite like the famous race in *Alice in Wonderland*, where there was a prize for everybody, but moving that way.

Which is why Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's scholarly French manager, was so happy to say "second place is not impossible" after this clear-cut win at Highbury on Saturday. Second place in the FA Carling Premiership, you see, will now carry a place in the enlarged European Cup.

Leicester's patchwork team, devoid of half the Coca-Cola Cup final men who will be needed for the replay on Wednesday, did not go down without a struggle, but without Parker to run the midfield and Heskey to run around up front, this was hardly the Leicester we know and admire. Yet it still took Arsenal a long time to score.

"I think we need patience," Wenger said, using the historic present. "We need organisation, discipline and movement also, because Leicester are a well-organised team and I understand why they did so well away and why they come back so many times in the game."

The first Arsenal goal was a spectacular affair. Receiving from Wright, Tony Adams, the centre back, now encouraged to attack, roared upfield, clouting the ball out high and wide to Dennis Bergkamp. The Dutchman chased the ball, caught it and, faced by Watts on the byline, somehow made space for his cross. Adams materialised on the far post to dive and head in.

Follow that, Arsenal might have said to Leicester and Robins, on the turn, did force Seaman to a difficult save. Late in the match, Elliott's header to Izzet's corner pinballed between Seaman and a helpful post. By and large, though, Arsenal, and Bergkamp in particular, dictated play.

There was abundant help not only from Vieira, as always, but from the still younger Stephen Hughes, 20, who now has the confidence to do ambitious things.

With spring bringing fresh spring to the step of a hitherto marginal David Platt, Arsenal looked good for more goals than they scored. Platt got one after 63 minutes in his old, opportunistic way. Bergkamp threaded the ball to him from the left and Platt shot precisely, low inside the far post.

Dixon's would have been a goal as remarkable as Adams's, but the mighty first-time wall-off with which Dixon met Wright's centre was gallantly turned aside by Keller. After the game, Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said Keller was "clutching a bag of ice" to his injured thigh. His presence on Wednesday is essential but not certain.

Significantly, Arsenal already had Paul Merson back on the bench, even though he did not get on the field. They still need more down the flanks and more invention in midfield, but second place seems a valid ambition. Wenger, next season, is planning to give youth its fling.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D. Seaman — M. Keown, A. Adams, S. Bould — L. Dixon, P. Vieira, S. Hughes (sub: R. Parker, 78min), D. Platt, M. Winterburn — I. Wright, D. Bergkamp.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keller — M. Elliott, J. Watts, S. Hall (sub: S. Cleridge, 62) — J. Lawrence, N. Lennon, S. Taylor (sub: S. Campbell, 73), S. Girdle, M. Whittle — M. Robins (sub: M. Ezzet, 62), J. Marshall.

Referee: S. Lodge

Falkirk's solid bond puts pressure on Burns

Footballers are reviving a shambling choreography unseen since Pan's People were ditched by *Top Of The Pops*, but if Falkirk's manoeuvres could still use a few more rehearsals, they were perfect in their aptness. Before and after the 1-1 draw with Celtic in the Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final on Saturday, the players joined hands and walked, in a somewhat ragged line, towards their supporters in the Copland Road stand at Ibrox.

While no celebrities show up in any census of the side, unity gave Falkirk a vigorous identity on Saturday. They were outplayed, as they knew they would be. They fell behind, as they feared they might, but there was one form of damage that Alex Totten's team would not tolerate. Falkirk could never be reduced to a gaggle of disconsolate individuals.

The bonds, so strong in long periods of resistance, also proved to be refined at the equaliser. The scorer, the 6ft 7in centre half, David James, was linked to the provider, Jamie McGowan, by an exquisite cross in the

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

82nd minute. In their camaraderie, the side from the middle of the Bell's Scottish League first division might have been giving a demonstration of the benefits of poverty. Falkirk's opponents cost some £14 million and it often appears that wealth has bought only an elaborate anxiety.

There is still the replay in which Celtic may put matters to rights, but another match could also provide another demonstration of fragility. On Saturday, Tom Boyd was the only surviving player from the squad inherited by Tommy Burns in 1994 and the manager appreciates that he will be held accountable for the team he has constructed.

In football, judgment is swift. Burns admits that, at 37, he was ill-equipped to cope with the job at the time of his appointment, yet, a mere three years later, he is at risk of being sacked and knows that his whole career could dwindle thereafter. By some measures, however, the assessment of Burns has proceeded on a leisurely basis.

At Kilmarnock, who meet Dundee United in the second Scottish Cup semi-final at Easter Road tonight, the manager was given only a few months to fasten his grip on the post. Bobby Williamson, replacing the dismissed Totten in December, was selected on a trial basis, with his future resting on the evasion of relegation.

Last week, however, he was given the job on as permanent a basis as is possible in this profession. Williamson has set about his onerous mission with a lightness of spirit. Asked about his readiness to introduce two teenage wingers, he explains that since his side were conceding so many goals, he thought it might be a good idea to score a few more. It is an invigorating approach, even if Burns could warn him how quickly breeziness can become calamity.

Speed settles ugly war of attrition

Everton 1
Tottenham Hotspur 0

By MARK HODKINSON

CAR windows are wound down and elbows cruise the breeze. The smell of freshly cut grass drifts over the traffic jams that snake all around Goodison Park.

Summer is almost upon us and the pace of life is set to decelerate, but Everton and Tottenham Hotspur know nothing of this impending peace. They are kicking and screaming against the fading light of a dying season.

Neither side is touched particularly by Blair and Grace, so, when they met on Saturday, both resorted to a brutal war of attrition. Knees were slammed into chests, heads clashed, studs grated down ankles and players roamed the field settling personal vendettas.

The referee, Gary Willard, was the only sane man in the cauldron of madness. He rightly booked eight players and somehow remained calm and impartial as players fought and bickered and supporters slavered at the perimeter fence.

"The most important thing today was to win," Dave Watson, the Everton caretaker player-manager, said afterwards. This statement has been heard too often this season; it is an unsatisfactory excuse for aggressive, aimless football played on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Everton needed the win to negate the fear of relegation. They packed the midfield and tackled everything in sight, often ambushing opponents in

packs of three. Tottenham were willing to mix it, but fast ran out of personnel. Scales, Nielsen and Carr were withdrawn injured and Fox finished the game limping.

There were but two moments of joy on a fructious afternoon in the sun. Everton's goal was marvellously simple. Stuart raced clear and Speed headed his cross neatly beyond Walker.

The other stolen pleasure was the performance of Everton's 17-year-old defender, Richard Dunne. He has the physique of a baker's son, but is deceptively quick. Assured on the ball, he is also intelligent enough to know when to punt it into the stand.

Violence, like beauty, is clearly in the eye of the beholder. Watson thought the bookings were "petty" and that the game had not been "tough". In contrast, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, had the bewildered and drained look of a man who had found his ringside seat a little too close for comfort.

"I think it was more of a battlefield than a football game," he said. "There were a few X-rated challenges out there, but it is a man's game and you have to expect that when there are so many things at stake."

Football, quite rightly, demands aggression and passion; it is the recklessness, peevishness and outright violence we can do without.

EVERTON (3-5-2): N. Southall — E. Barnett, D. Watson, R. Dunne — G. Stuart, C. Thompson, G. Speed, P. Riddle, T. Preston (sub: M. Ball, 45min) — M. Birchall (sub: N. Bentley, 58), D. Ferguson.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (3-5-2): I. Walker — V. Veiga, C. Cooke, J. Spence (sub: N. Farn, 46) — S. Carr (sub: R. Fox, 51), J. Dooill, S. Campbell, A. Nielsen (sub: D. Austin, 30), J. Edinborough — R. Rosenthal, E. Swainston.

Referee: G. Willard

Southampton uncork the style

Southampton 2
West Ham United 0

By KEITH PIKE

WHO will shed a tear for Southampton if they are relegated, a fate that cannot be disregarded despite the importance and impressive nature of this victory? There will not be a dry eye at The Dell for sure, and there will be others who will mourn their passing after 19 seasons spent challenging increasingly prohibitive odds. Like Coventry City, Southampton are one of those clubs that most fans have a soft spot for. If only because their presence guarantees at least one win a season.

Yet it would be fanciful to suppose that Dave Merrington was offering a prayer on their behalf yesterday. Merrington might have found it hard to suppress a chuckle had he heard Graeme Souness claim on Saturday:

Little fine awaits absent-minded Bosnich

Derby County 2
Aston Villa 1

By RICHARD HOBSON

ON SATURDAY morning, Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, described Mark Bosnich as "possibly the best goalkeeper in England". Today, Bosnich may find himself on the transfer list after leaving the Baseball Ground in a fit of pique an hour before the FA Carling Premiership game against Derby County, having been named as a substitute.

Bosnich will be called before Little today and, at the very least, he can expect to be fined

two weeks' wages — around £15,000. Bosnich has struggled with a hamstring injury and Little felt that he was still not sufficiently fit to play ahead of Michael Oakes. Villa were forced to name their third-string goalkeeper, Adam Rachel, as substitute.

"There was no conversation between Mark and myself," Little said. "I picked the team, he was not in it and at five to two I was given a message that he had left the ground. I am disappointed, to say the least, and a lot of the guys in the dressing-room are disappointed, too. You can bet your life this is a disciplinary matter. Before this, he was our No 1

goalkeeper; it is an absolute certainty that the situation has changed."

Little stuck by the player's Nazi-style salute at White Hart Lane. Bosnich became a model of contrition and he would do well to adopt a similar tone today.

Oakes, a former England Under-21 international, is a capable deputy and he could not be faulted for the two first-half goals that ensured Derby a third win in four games and carried them beyond the 40-point total considered sufficient to avoid relegation.

Derby went ahead in the 21st minute through Gary

Rowett's first goal for the club, finishing ruthlessly from the edge of the penalty area. Fourteen minutes later, Dean Sturridge floated a pass to Van der Laan, who curled his shot into the far corner.

Julian Joachim, a substitute, capitalised on confusion between Rowett and Russell Hoult to score with seven minutes remaining. It was scant consolation for Villa.

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R. Hoult — J. Laurens, P. McGrath, C. O'Leary — C. Rowett, R. van der Laan (sub: D. Powell, 78min), P. Topleaze, A. Asanovic (sub: M. Soley, 78), C. Powell — D. Sturridge, A. Ward (sub: P. Warthrop, 78).

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Oakes — U. Edozie, G. Southgate, D. Hughes (sub: J. Joachim, 73) — F. Nelson, S. Taylor (sub: S. Draper, 30), S. Coates, 82, A. Townsend, A. Wright — D. Yorke, S. Milosavljevic.

Referee: P. Danson

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Board games unite Brighton battalions

By SIMON BARNES

Brighton lie at the bottom of the

Yet the fans do not stay away in droves. On Saturday, the attendance was 8,703. Some were there for the last rites — the anorak tendency. Most, though, were simply football supporters, or rather Brighton supporters, and they created an atmosphere of frenzied hope. It was a battle of bottom

What are Brighton doing in this ridiculous mess? In 1980, they finished sixteenth in the top division, ahead of Manchester City and Everton. Three years later, they were a few inches away from beating Manchester United — "and Smith must score!" — in the FA Cup Final. They have always had good support, but all their history since Smith's fateful miss has been a fluttering, downward spiral, a frantic search for the rock bottom that still they have yet to reach.

McGhee leaves the bench to give instructions to his team during their 2-1 defeat at Elm Park

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

As befits such an opinionated nature, there will be occasions when lashings of humble pie have to be eaten and Elm Park on Saturday was one of them as Wolves' hopes of automatic promotion from the Nationwide League

During the game, his emotions

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-1-3-2): M Stowell — J Smith, K Curle, B Law, S Froggatt (sub: A Thompson, 78) — D Ferguson — M Atkinson, G Thomas, M Gilles (sub: M Venus, 87) —

By PETER BALL

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-4-2): P Jones — S Connolly, M Flynn, J Gannon, L Todd — L Casasco, T Bennett, G Cowans (s/sr: A Dinning, 88min), K Cooper (s/sr: K Durkan, 73) — K Cheshire, A Armstrong (s/sr: A Mutch, 82).

BURNLEY (3-5-2): W Russell — C Brass, J Heyland (s/sr: R Huxford, 87), M Winstanley — G Parkinson, P Weiler (s/sr: P Smith, 46), S Thompson (s/sr: S Gurnan, 87), G Harrison, C R. Snodgrass, D. Fyfe.

By WALTER GAMMIE

Anger was, nevertheless, the prime emotion experienced by Paul Fairclough, the Stevenage

STEVENAGE BOROUGH (4-1-2-1-2): D Gallagher — D Hooper, E Sodge, M Smith (sub: C Browne, 58m), R Mutchell — R Kirby — C Adams, P Barrowcliff — N Catlin — G Greenawald, B Hayles (sub: N Trebble, 53).

WORKING (3-4-1-2-1): L Batty — K Brown, T Howard, L Wye (sub: D Timothy, 105) — S Wye, A Ellis, S Thompson (sub: T Jones, 113), R Taylor — S Steele — C Walker, J Jackson (sub: D Hay, 66).
Referee: P Durkin.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (4-4-2): M Ormerod — J Humphrey, R Johnson, M Mears, S Tucker — S Storer, J Milnion, K Mayo, P McDonald — R Reinsel, C Maswell.

WIGAN ATHLETIC (3-5-2): I Butler — C Bishop, C Greenall, P McGibbin (sub: J Butler, 46min) — I Kilford, R Martinez, P Rogers, K Sharp (sub: W Biggins, 82), D Lowe — A Saville (sub: G Lancashire, 72), G Jones.

Referee: M Fletcher.

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THE  TIMES

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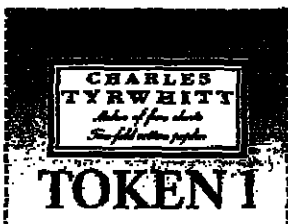


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CHANGING TIMES

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Rees excels as Wasps take further step to league title

Saracens 15
Wasps 28

By BARNEY SPENDER

A BRACE of tries from Kenny Logan, the Scotland wing, and another superb kicking display from Gareth Rees gave Wasps a hard-earned win that, coupled with Leicester's demise at Bath, should see them up to take their second Courage Clubs Championship. They are now five points clear and two wins from their last three games will settle it.

If they do win the title, it will be a triumph of pragmatism over glamour. Wasps were one of the few clubs to steer cautiously through the minefield of the big-name transfer market when rugby went open, the cheque book coming out instead to secure the bargain services of Chris Sheasby and Rees, then Rob Henderson and Logan.

"It's all very well having money, but it needs to be spent wisely," Lawrence Dallaglio, their captain, said after the game. "We need guys with spirit, guys who are young, hungry and ambitious. Spend too much money and you can neglect the development of your younger players."

Too true, although it is hard to see Wasps being where they are now without the services of Rees. Occasionally, they have played with real flair this season and, at other times, they have had to hang in and fight it out. In both cases, Rees, whose feisty spirit is evident for all to see, has been at the heart. Last week, he kicked a crucial penalty against Bath to salvage a draw and, on Saturday, his steady points-gathering had the effect of settling the nerves as Wasps came under a fierce onslaught.

Saracens spent heavily in attracting the likes of Philippe Sella, Michael Lynagh—who missed this game with a hip injury—and Francois Pienaar, but they languish in mid-table and have all but blown their chance of getting into Europe next season. Yet, they held the initiative, which was handed to them by through their dynamic back row. Sadly for them, a few sloppy moments gave it all away.

Wasps's first try came after 12 minutes when Andy Lee's chip was charged down by Nick Greenstock, who raced the length of the field before off-loading to Logan. The second came from the restart after Diprose had crashed through to cut the deficit to 10-5: a knock-on led to a scrum that concluded with a push-over try for Sheasby.

Despite that, Saracens continued to play the better rugby and just before half-time pulled it back to 17-15 when Diprose set up a flowing movement that took in some superb work from Hill and Richard Wallace. Pienaar was held up just short, but Botterman was on hand to score.

The second half was notable for some outstanding Wasps defence to deny Saracens further reward. A couple of mighty penalties from Rees and a fine second try from Logan sealed the result.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Diprose, Gortman; Conversion: Lee; Penalty goal: Lee; Wasps: Tries: Logan (2), Sheasby; Conversion: Rees (2); Penalty goals: Rees (3).
SARACENS: M. Senger, R. Wallace, P. Sella, S. Ravenscroft, M. Ebongalame, A. Lee, K. Bracken, A. Daly, G. Botterman, A. Osei, F. Penman, P. Johns, A. Copley, P. Hill, A. Diprose, J. Jones; Rees replaced by C. Yandell (74min).
WASPS: G. Rees, S. Flower, N. Greenstock, R. Henderson, M. Logan, A. Jung, A. Gormack, D. Molloy, S. Mitchell, W. Green, L. Callaghan, M. Greenwood, A. Reed, M. White, C. Sheasby; Macrae replaced by K. Dunn (72min); Greenwood replaced by G. Conlin (72).
Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool)

RUGBY UNION: BATH OVERRUN EXHAUSTED OPPONENTS TO SECURE DECISIVE LEAGUE VICTORY

Leicester broken by final demands

Bath 47
Leicester 9

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE grisly spectre of a season ending with no tangible reward now looms over Leicester. Defeated in the final of the Heineken Cup in January, their hopes of compensation in the Courage Clubs Championship were rammed into the unforgiving earth of the Recreation Ground on Saturday.

The title is surely out of sight. Wasps having opened a five-point gap in the first division. Now it is a question of whether weary Leicester can lift themselves for their remaining league fixtures—to ensure qualification for the Heineken Cup next season—and for the Pilkington Cup final on May 10 against Sale.

Leicester were unrecognisable from the team that defeated Wasps only 12 days ago. The demands of this crazy season have given them more high-profile matches than any other club, at a time when the national selectors have also come calling regularly, and they have

TOP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	19	15	1	3	581	359	31
Leicester	18	13	0	5	528	319	26
Bath	18	12	1	5	639	333	25

REMAINING FIXTURES: Wasps: April 20: v Sale (H); 26: v Northampton (A); May: 3: v Harlequins (A); Leicester: April 18: v London Irish (A); 19: v Saracens (H); 26: v Harlequins (H); May: 3: v Sale (A); Bath: April 19: v Orrell (H); 26: v Sale (H); 30: v Gloucester (H); May: 3: v Saracens (A)

been unable to rest players, fielding those carrying injuries—all under the remorseless spotlight of expectancy.

Had it not been a crucial game, neither of their centres nor their scrum half would have played on Saturday. Malone withdrew with a stomach ailment an hour before the game. Richards (elbow), Hackney (groin) and Stransky (cheekbone) collected fresh injuries and Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, admitted: "I think we have nil chance of winning the league, even if Wasps lose again. Our biggest task is to get ourselves a healthy side by Wednesday and not let thoughts of the cup final get in the way. Finishing in the top four is an absolute must."

Bath, who played with a refreshing elegance and muscular speed, epitomised by Carr and Adebayo, had no sympathy with their rivals, nor would Leicester expect any. Bath dealt better than anybody with the twin demands of league and cup during their palmist days as amateurs, while surrendering many of



Thomas, the Bath open-side forward, bursts past Johnson, left, and the remnants of a tired Leicester defence at the Recreation Ground

their best players to England. "You have to have a bit of luck with injuries, but it takes special people," Andy Robinson, their coach, said.

He was only echoing what his predecessors, Jack Rowell and Brian Ashton, have always maintained—that the qualities required are as much mental as physical. That is where Leicester are slowing down. They could not cope with the flexibility of Bath's tactics, the accuracy of Carr's passing and the demands on their defence, which, in the final half-hour, crumbled.

Bath have rediscovered the rhythm to their game. Their investment in two Argentina forwards, Mendez and Llanes, is beginning to pay dividends and the hard grounds favour their outstanding broken-field runners, including the outstanding American, Lyle.

Lyle has become one of the most potent players at the club. Dwyer pinpointed the power with which he hits rucks and mauls to turn over 50-50 ball, but the No 8 is also a ball-player by nature and has all his countrymen's zest in the tackle.

When he scored Bath's fourth try, Lyle was only completing what he had begun, soaring at the lineout—where he won two-thirds of Bath's possession—covering ground to the ruck on the far touchline and taking the ball on the burst to score.

Carr and Adebayo, meanwhile, were making a nonsense of their omission from the British Isles tour party. Whatever else he does not have, Carr does have vision, while Adebayo must be regretting the concussion that removed him from the December international with Argentina and gave Tony Underwood the wing position

for England that he has not relinquished. If his first try was the result of a kick and chase, his second, from 55 metres, was a quality finish, carrying him past the tackles of Healey and Stransky.

The game turned on Bath's tries either side of half-time. Leicester would have changed ends leading 9-6 on penalties had not Greenwood's pass, two minutes from the interval, gone to ground, leaving de Glanville to kick on and Adebayo to profit. Two minutes after the interval, Leicester knew it was not to be their day. Mendez was awarded a try that television showed was not touched down when the hooker also had a foot in touch.

Leicester's resolve in the tackle drained away, leaving only the indomitable Healey and the hard-working Johnson and Back to prop

up their cause. Bath revelled in the sunshine, young Perry as much as any for he scored the last two tries to cap a good day in the still unfamiliar position of full back. By that stage, Leicester, who last week played the club's 4,000th match, against Gloucester, looked as though this XV had played in every one of the preceding 3,999.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Adebayo (2), Perry (2); Mendez; Lyle; Conversion: Carr (2); Carr (2); Penalty goal: Carr (2); Leicester: Penalty goal: Stransky (2).
BATH: M. Perry, J. Slaght, P. de Glanville, J. Gascott, A. Adebayo, M. Carr, A. Nicol, K. Yates, F. Mendez, J. MacKell, R. Webster, M. Healey, G. Llanes, N. Thomas, D. Lyle; Thomas replaced by S. O'Connell (60min); de Glanville replaced by J. Callard (70); Lyle replaced by B. Cusack (74).
LEICESTER: J. Lacey, S. Hackney, S. Potts, W. Johnson, M. Potts, N. Back, D. Richards; Hackney replaced by R. Underwood (51min); Lacey replaced by R. Edwards (55); Greenwood replaced by N. Malone (55); Potts replaced by M. Fletcher (78); Stransky replaced by W. Drake-Lee (81).
Referee: E. Morrison (Bristol)

McGeechan taking pleasure in home comforts

Northampton 31
London Irish 21

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

FRANKLINS GARDENS is a pleasant place to play rugby. The crowd is usually sizeable, occasionally festive and always enthusiastic. The pitch and facilities bear comparison with the best in the Courage Clubs Championship. This is no fortress, however, such as Cardiff Arms Park during the 1970s, Ellis Park when the Springboks have their tails up, or even Kingsholm or Welford Road. Why, then, are Northampton well nigh unbeatable at home yet so largely inept away?

They have won seven out of eight first division matches on their own patch this season. They have beaten Bath and Leicester and lost only narrowly to Harlequins. Yet they lost 34-21 to London Irish at Sunbury in September, starting a run of seven consecutive away league defeats.

The mystery deepens further when one remembers that Northampton won in Ireland, Wales, Italy and France in the European Conference. Certainly, Ian McGeechan struggles to explain it.

Last week, after a lacklustre defeat at Bristol, the Northampton director of rugby suggested that it was because his side attempts to play too much rugby away from home, when a tighter percentage game might reap greater reward. On Saturday, however, he thought that the greater pace that his players were able to impose, particularly on the first 25 minutes, was crucial.

"I was very pleased with the first half," McGeechan said. "There was a lot of pressure out there today, but we got back to the sort of pace at which the game should be played. That is what really pleased me."

Northampton were rewarded with a try in the opening minute. With Paul Grayson still out with a thigh muscle injury and Jonathan Bell damaging a wrist at Bristol, Gregor Townsend moved from stand-off half to centre and Alistair Hepher donned the No 10 shirt. How well he wore it. The student, 22, scored the first try when he dived his way through the Irish defence. He converted, kicked two penalty goals, then sold a similar dummy before feeding Townsend for the second try.

The Scotland international then exchanged passes with Thornycroft to create the third Northampton try for Clarke, which Hepher again converted. After half-time, the Exiles began to mount a more serious challenge. There were tries for Keiron Dawson and Hennessy, but, in between, Hepher kicked two further penalties to keep Northampton far enough ahead.

London Irish must now concentrate on picking up enough points to stay third from bottom and so contest the relegation play-offs. Leicester's wounded Tigers will not make it easy for them on Wednesday.

SCORERS: Northampton: Tries: Hepher, Townsend, Clarke; Conversions: Hepher (2); Penalty goals: Hepher (4); London Irish: Tries: Dawson, Hennessy; Conversion: O'Shea; Penalty goals: Humphreys (2), O'Shea.

NORTHAMPTON: I. Hunter, N. Beal, G. Townsend, M. Allen, H. Thornycroft, A. Hepher, M. Dawson, M. Volland, A. Clarke, M. Hynds, D. Meier, J. Phillips, S. Fooks, J. Cassell, S. Seely, S. Seely replaced by S. Barnes (57min); Thornycroft temporarily replaced by C. Mow (52:55).
LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, N. Woods, J. Seahop, S. Barnes, H. Hennessy, D. Humphreys, N. Hogan, J. Fitzpatrick, A. Redmond, G. Halpin, K. O'Connor, G. Fletcher, A. Meadows, A. Dawson, R. Tootley; Humphreys replaced by N. Burrows (45min); Meadows replaced by J. Spence (55); Redmond replaced by J. Mooney (65); Fitzpatrick replaced by J. Mooney (65); Dawson replaced by G. Beal (65).
Referee: A. Rowden (Berkshire)

Sale show no mercy as tired Gloucester run out of gas

Sale 52
Gloucester 12

By A CORRESPONDENT

ONE point and one place divided Sale and Gloucester before the match at Heywood Road on Saturday. It was a statistic that suggested a close encounter of the keen kind, but, in the event, in a season that has become a test of endurance, with honours, survival, play-off and Heineken Cup places to be fought over, the West Country side simply ran out of gas.

Herculean efforts, in defeating first Saracens and then, against all the odds, Leicester, had left them exhausted and Sale, well aware of how they felt—they, too, had played three times in eight days earlier in the month—showed them no mercy.

Victory by their most emphatic margin since crushing West Hartlepool 59-18 in September took Sale back above Harlequins to fourth place in the table and, though a Heineken Cup place is still within their reach, their remaining

five games include trips to Wasps and Bath and a home encounter with Leicester.

"A lot could now depend on how we use our resources," John Mitchell, the Sale coach, said. "We can't field our best side in every game."

Gloucester tried to do exactly that and came a cropper, their worst since the 75-19 pounding their second team took at Harlequins on the first day of the season. Their pack, in particular, suffered a fearful hammering at the hands of an inspired Sale eight in which Vyvyan and Fowler were outstanding.

Gloucester fought with dedication and determination, none more than Fidler, Stanley and Greening, but they were on the back foot for 90 per cent of the contest and were repeatedly caught short of numbers in defence. At least they had the satisfaction of scoring twice in the second half.

Sale's driving mauls were intended to sap Gloucester's strength and did just that. They even forced a penalty try when their opponents collapsed a scrum near their own

line—to Gloucester eyes, the ultimate ignominy.

Once the forward battle was done, the Sale backs took over. Beim, who was with Gloucester until this season, showed great pace with two second-half tries, taking his total for the season to 16, while Hadley, who had given the visitors' midfield a terrible time, eventually broke clear for another.

It was a clear-headed Mannix, though, who ran the show so well from try to last. In scoring two tries and six conversions, he ended the day with a satisfying 22-point haul.

SCORERS: Sale: Tries: Mannix (2), Beim (2), Erskine, Hadley, Fowler; Conversion: Mannix (6); Gloucester: Tries: Maclellan, Lumsdon; Conversion: Maclellan.

SALE: J. Mannix, D. Beim, A. Hadley, J. Entwistle, M. Roberts, M. Ugo, M. Maclellan, S. Diamond, A. Smith, P. Winstanley, S. Diamond, A. Smith, D. Entwistle, J. Fowler, D. Erskine, D. O'Grady, C. Vyvyan; Diamond replaced by L. Pearson (62min); Smith replaced by A. Vales (67); Entwistle replaced by C. Yates (72); Mannix replaced by J. O'Reilly (72); O'Grady replaced by A. Morris (72).
GLOUCESTER: A. Lumsdon, M. Peters, C. Entwistle, M. Roberts, M. Ugo, M. Maclellan, S. Diamond, A. Smith, P. Winstanley, S. Diamond, A. Smith, D. Entwistle, J. Fowler, D. Erskine, D. O'Grady, C. Vyvyan; Diamond replaced by L. Pearson (62min); Smith replaced by A. Vales (67); Entwistle replaced by C. Yates (72); Mannix replaced by J. O'Reilly (72); O'Grady replaced by A. Morris (72).
Referee: B. Campbell (Yorkshire)

Stirring fightback reaps no reward for hard-up Orrell

Orrell 27
Bristol 28

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

TAKE two North West clubs, one rolling in new wealth, with the Pilkington Cup final to look forward to and possible European competition, the other broke, on the verge of relegation and with the prospect next season of re-visiting such haunts as Waterloo and Wakefield.

The roles have been reversed, by which Sale had nothing and Orrell everything by dint of their bloody-minded attitude. Hard work only counts for so much now.

Orrell are casualties of the professional era, in which they are regularly patted and then patronised in the mistaken belief that they somehow enjoy upholding the amateur ethos by staying penniless.

When about 500 pairs of eyes collectively shut—that is as many people as can be mustered at Edge Hall Road nowadays—there was an almost instinctive sense that Matthew McCarthy would

miss the touchline conversion in injury time by which Orrell could have won only a third Courage Clubs Championship match. His scuffed kick barely got airborne. "Typical," someone said.

As Bristol bore down on the unfortunate McCarthy in the process of his fluffed conversion, their relief was palpable. A third successive league victory guaranteed them, at the worst, the relegation escape route of a play-off place. They led 28-12 at the break, whereupon their dreadful laxity happened to coincide with one of the best 40 minutes of rugby that Orrell have managed all season to almost complete a magnificent comeback.

Once they fixed their defence in the second half, Orrell were a different proposition to the woebegone version before-hand. In between tries by Rees and Hitchmough's first at the beginning and end of the half, Bristol rattled up 25 points, with Burke in especially fine place-kicking form and the typically inspirational Corry plucking an Orrell lineout ball for Bristol's opening try.

A quick, recycled ball gave

Tuetti his first try and a dreadful clearance by Lyon the wing's second before Orrell responded to the appeal for pride by Sammy Southern, the club's inveterate stalwart and chairman of rugby, who had replaced Peter Williams, five days before.

There was a momentum to Orrell down the slope, one that Bristol looked incapable of stopping, as McCarthy added a penalty, converted a runaway try by Bennett and lined up the conversion of Hitchmough's try in the third minute of added time. His fourth miss was a blessing that Bristol would be wise not to forget.

SCORERS: Orrell: Tries: Hitchmough (2), Rees, Bennett; Conversion: McCarthy (2); Penalty goal: McCarthy (2); Bristol: Tries: Tuetti (2), Corry; Conversion: Burke (2); Penalty goal: Burke (2).

ORRELL: D. Lyon, J. Naylor, P. Hamer, L. Tuiguala, R. Hitchmough, M. McCarthy, S. Corry, M. Worsley, M. Hitchon, S. Turner, A. Bennett, P. Rees, C. Birtley, R. Hogg, P. Angell, A. Hinton; Rees replaced by A. Morda (40min); Birtley replaced by C. Cusack (50); Lyon replaced by S. Taberner (63).
BRISTOL: J. Lacey, D. Tuett, F. Waters, D. Maggs, B. Bressa, P. Burke, J. Jones, D. Watkins, B. McCormick, J. Furrer, M. Corry, A. Adams, C. Sledge, R. Butler, R. Collins; Adams replaced by D. Corbett (65min); Lacey replaced by P. Hall (63); Collins replaced by C. Short (68); Waters replaced by M. Denny (77).
Referee: G. Hughes (Manchester)

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Morgans make success a family matter

By JOHN GOODBODY

IT IS of inestimable advantage for a brother and sister if they both take part in the same sport. From childhood, they can practise together and provide each other with extra motivation to succeed.

Sometimes, they reach the highest level. Marcus and Gee Armytage are outstanding jockeys. In athletics, Carl and Carol Lewis flew the flag for the United States.

While John and Sheila Sherwood both won medals for Great Britain at the 1968 Olympic Games.

Gareth Morgans, 17, and his sister, Emily, 16, have been playing squash virtually since they could walk. Now they are team captains at Wyldcliffe College, Gloucestershire, which last month won both the boys' and girls' championships in the national schools competitions. It is a double that only Millfield had previously achieved.

Gareth is the natural spokesman for the pair. "Having both of us playing the game has definitely helped us. If I lost a bit of interest, Emily would help me out, because, in a few weeks' time, it would be the other way round," he said. "We often go to the gym together and, if there is nobody else, we play each other. In

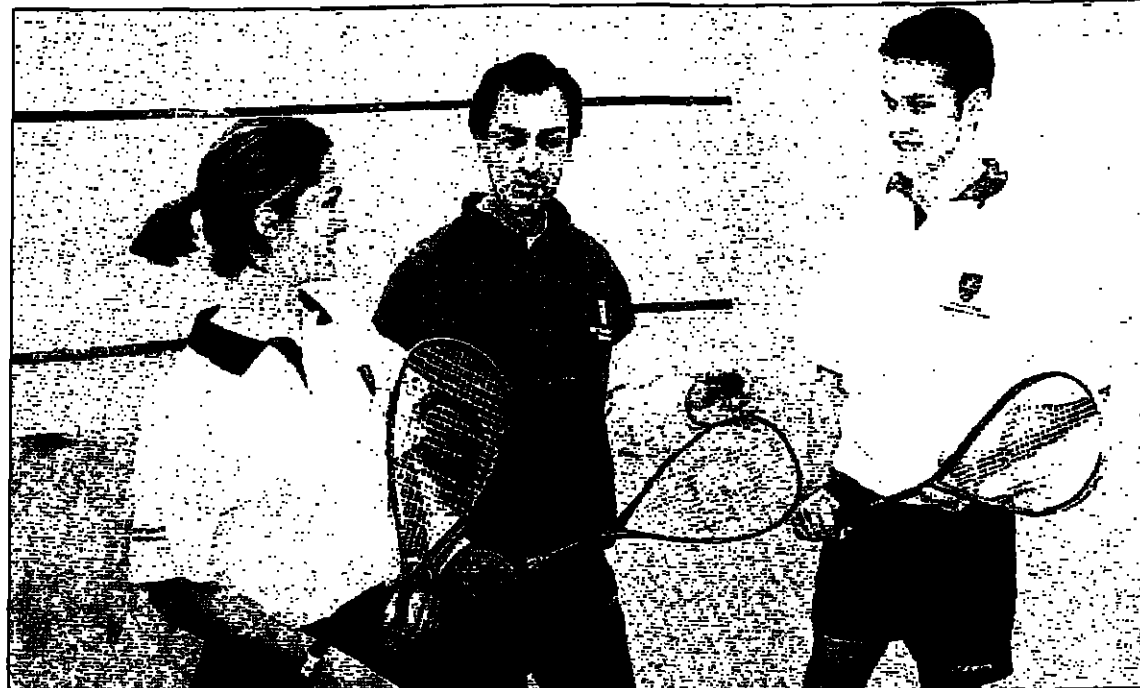
matches, we will give each other advice, because we are usually more relaxed at tournaments than our parents."

It was their parents' example that encouraged the youngsters to start squash at Fitness First in Dallington, near Northampton. "After our parents played, we would pick up the rackets when they had finished and

hit the ball about on the club courts. Once Mum saw we were interested, she started coming onto the court and once Dad saw we could hit the ball back, he also got interested in helping us."

Emily said: "We were close when we were young and did everything together. The club was only a few minutes' walk away, so it was so convenient." They are following along the paths of Brett Rodney and Michelle Martin, the Australia squash internationals, who are also brothers and sister.

The British pair are two of the 16 pupils holding squash bursaries at Wyldcliffe, the mixed independent school situated on the edge of Stonehouse. The college is so concentrated on winning competitions that the teams even have regular sessions with a sports psychologist, Phil Coley, who accompanied the teams to



Emily Morgans discusses squash training with Jeffrey, the coach, centre, and her brother, Gareth

the finals at Winchester. They needed him. The finals were tight. Wyldcliffe beat Crownwoods 3-2 in the boys final, with their opponents fielding both John Russell and Adrian Grant, the British Under-19 No 1 and No 2, while the girls defeated Ecclebourne, also by 3-2.

Gareth said: "Tactically, we had decided how to play before the final, but Phil Coley helps us to balance the tension. Some of us got too relaxed

and others were too tense. He helped us just to concentrate on one game and to control any anxiety."

Physically, their day is demanding, with two sessions, one at lunchtime on the three grass-backed courts in the school, and another, for 1½ hours, after afternoon lessons.

John Jeffrey, the squash coach and former Great Britain junior international in modern pentathlon, has the squad regularly doing strengthening

and supplying exercises. When he arrived at Wyldcliffe in 1991, the standard of squash was largely "recreational", although the college had shown its potential by producing county players.

He said: "Primarily, I look at skill levels. Then, I look to see if they have the personality, if they are likely to be able to concentrate on the game. Finally, whether they are or could be athletic. It is not the same thing."

Darts rebels hit bull's eye with £600,000 TV deal

When the American musician, Gil Scott-Heron, penned the classic protest song, *The Revolution will not be Televised*, he was not thinking about darts. It is just as well, as BSkyB will this week announce a £600,000 deal to televise the revolution that has shaken the sport to its core.

BSkyB will get exclusive United Kingdom rights over the next three years to televise all the events — including three world championship competitions — organised by the World Darts Council (WDC), the breakaway body created nearly five years ago when the leading 16 players allied with the manufacturers of darts equipment to revitalise what they were concerned was a dying sport.

Since the end of 1993, when the WDC created its first alternative world championship, the body has been effectively at war with the British Darts Organisation (BDO) and the World Darts Federation (WDF), the governing bodies of darts. However, with the BSkyB deal, which wipes out the £300,000 losses accumulated by the founders of the WDC, the rebels scent victory.

In the late-1970s and early-1980s, darts was in a rut, hamstrung by its image of fat men putting down their pint and cigarette to throw a few metal objects at a piece of cork. Within a matter of weeks in 1988, both ITV and BBC cancelled most of their coverage of the sport, leaving just one televised event, the Embassy world championship, on BBC.

In 1990, the BDO asked a public relations company, Craigie Taylor, to look at ways of promoting the game. Craigie Taylor came up with a scheme to clean up the image of darts and sell television rights to what was then Sky.

The BDO said it was not interested, so Craigie Taylor approached the Darts Council, a trade body of United Kingdom manufacturers exporting darts equipment. The council said it would finance events if it could get television coverage. The turning point

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



was when Dick Allix, a 1960s pop star, who became the manager of the five-time world champion, Eric Bristow, came on board, bringing all the top-ranking stars.

The new World Darts Council was born with an event in East Anglia in October 1992. The WDC player, competed in the world championship at the end of 1992 and one, John Lowe, won it.

In 1993, BSkyB and the WDC decided to run an alternate world championship, a week before the Embassy. It was a whole new "game of arrows". The players were not allowed to drink or smoke on screen, they were given theme tunes and came on stage led by models and shrouded in dry ice.

The BDO banned all players appearing in WDC events from any open event organised by the BDO or the WDF. The players have sued for restraint of trade, citing both the Tony Greig and John Snow case against the Test and County Cricket Board over World Series Cricket in the 1970s and Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome, which governs trade between European Union countries. The case is set to be heard June 23 in the High Court.

Barry Hearn, the boxing promoter, has set up some deals for the WDC in the United States, including a possible Pro-Am competition in Las Vegas. The star amateur is expected to be Engelbert Humperdinck, the singer whose famous hit, *Please Release Me*, could be an appropriate anthem, considering the coming of the court case.

JASON NISSE

CURLING

Scots slip in ice quest

SCOTLAND, the European champions, lost their first match in the round-robin series to Switzerland, but still expect to face Canada, the reigning champions, in the men's final of the world championships at Berne next Sunday (a Correspondent writes). The Scottish quartet of Brian Binnie at lead, Mike Hay — twice a world championship silver medal-winner — at second, Norman Brown at third and the flamboyant McMillan in control expect nothing less than gold.

The Scotland women, led by Carolyn Hutchison, also need a medal to maintain their ranking of sixth in the world and so qualify for the winter Olympic Games in Japan, where curling appears as a medal-winning sport for the first time.

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RACING
Cecil adds

Double blow for

POINT-TO-POINT

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY

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RACING: FAST-GROUND GALLOPS SLOW PROGRESS OF MARKET-TRAINED HORSES

Cecil adds cautionary note to trials

By JULIAN MUSCAT

A PIVOTAL week to the fledgling flat season opens at Newmarket tomorrow with local trainers warning that fast ground on the gallops has seriously disrupted preparations for the sequence of classic trials.

Although the racecourse executive at Newmarket has employed a liberal watering policy, trainers have been reluctant to stretch horses at home in the prevailing conditions. Several high-profile horses are reported short of work and the summer gallops — where the ground is traditionally best in dry weather — are already in use.

Among those expressing concern is Henry Cecil, already obliged to tread cautiously with his string through a combination of ringworm and throat infection. Sleepy-time, the 1,000 Guineas favourite, returned to her faster paces on Saturday, but Cecil said of her impending seasonal debut at Newbury on Friday: "I hope she will run well but she will need the race."

"All my horses are two gallops behind," he continued. "Having worked on grass in March, we are now back on the all-weather and I have not let them down at the end of their work. I will have around 17 runners this week and I will be happy with two or three winners." The Warren Place handler suffered a further reverse when he reported that his Derby candidate, High Roller, has been ruled out of the blue riband with a knee injury.

Another horse for whom the Newmarket meeting has come too soon is Indiscreet, third favourite to the 2,000 Guineas. According to Newmarket gallop watchers, Indiscreet failed to impress there in his weekend workout and is rated extremely doubtful for tomorrow's NGK Spark Plugs Conditions Stakes.

Meanwhile, the Mark Tompkins-trained Musical Pursuit is to bypass Thursday's Craven Stakes and make straight for the 2,000 Guineas. Two interesting Craven Stakes runners are Cape Cross and Monza, the latter a

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KINGDOM PEARL (2.50 Musselburgh)
Next best: Able Sheriff (3.20 Musselburgh)

stable companion of the champion 10-year-old, Revogue, at Peter Chapple-Hyam's stable.

Monza will improve for the run, but he is quite forward in condition," Chapple-Hyam said. "He deserves his chance and is a decent horse in his own right." The highly-rated Romanov, a winner on his debut at Haydock last month, is to be saved for the Tudor Conditions Stakes at Sandown later this month.

Of Revogue, scheduled to reappear in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury on Saturday, the trainer said: "I expect him to improve considerably for it. He does very little at

home and he just struggled to win his maiden last season before improving 6lb on his next start. Having said that, I wouldn't be taking him to the races unless I thought he was nearly there. The ground won't be a problem; he works best when it is fast at home."

Opposing Monza in the Craven will be Cape Cross, who caught the eye when successful on his Doncaster debut in September. "He is a big, gross horse who will come on a lot for the run," his trainer, John Gosden, said yesterday. Like Cecil, Gosden has been set back by the prevailing fast ground at Newmarket.

"It is a nightmare trying to get a proper foundation into horses in this dry spell," Gosden said. "Training horses on the all-weather is a very different ball-game to the traditional way. I will have a handful of runners at Newmarket and a few more at Newbury, but there is no point in forcing things. We just have to accept it."

The Dip, another Craven entry, is more likely to wait for the Classic Trial at Sandown later this month.

Pat Eddery, who injured his back riding Eleventh Duke at Nottingham on Friday, undergoes treatment this morning in the hope of riding at Newmarket tomorrow. "Pat is to see a chiropractor but he is not bright at the moment," Eddery's agent, Terry Ellis, said yesterday. "I cannot be confident he will be fit to ride."

Double blow for Curling

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

POLLY CURLING, concussed after a heavy fall at the Ludlow meeting on Saturday, has been stood down for three weeks.

The former women's champion was unconscious for three minutes after parting company from Tim Forster's maiden Expresso Drummer and, while a brain scan at Telford Hospital revealed no serious damage, she will be sidelined until May 3.

Shirley Vickery's double at the West Somerset was a further blow to Curling — the two now share the lead in the women's championship with 15 successes.

Curling had travelled from her Somerset home to ride two for Forster but was on her way to hospital when Candy Thomas deputised on the

odds-on favourite. Slaney Food, in the ladies' open. The pair looked held by the Alison Dare-ridden Split Second when falling at the penultimate fence, and a broken fetlock spelled a sad end for Forster's horse.

This unfortunate episode tarnished an otherwise exceptional day, when the mix of sunshine and competitive racing on watered ground summed up the sport's finer qualities.

Julian Pritchard, at the head of affairs in the men's championship, failed to add to his tally and was disappointed with Bagalino, who was caught by the reliable Shoon Wind in the men's open, part of a double for Shifnal's Andrew Dalton.

The man to beat, though, is

Mark Rimell, who was in excellent form. He opened with a 16-1 winner in the members' and proceeded to land a treble. The former jockey Geoff Evans, 34, who this year joined Mike Trickey on Forster's roster of point-to-point trainers, saddled the second and third leg of Rimell's treble, Lancastrian Jet and Emerald Charm.

The six-year-old Lancastrian Jet, bought by Forster at the John Edwards dispersal sale, is a quality youngster who will be trained by his owner one day.

Ashley Farrar climbed up the queue of riders challenging Pritchard. His four winners at the Tetcott took his tally to 14 for the season, three behind the leader on Saturday evening.



Training signs off his career with a comfortable victory at Ascot on Saturday

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.00 Chorus Line, 2.30 Dream Ride, 3.00 Pearl Epoca, 3.30 Mister Horatio, 4.00 Forbidden Waters, 4.30 Selman, 5.00 Jendoret.
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings:
3.00 PEARL EPOCA
Carl Evans: 3.30 Mister Horatio.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
TIDE: JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 NORFOLK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (22.90; 2m) (11 runners)
101 UPRIS CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3521 STORMELL 16 (16.0) M Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
103 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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2.30 DAILY NOVICES CHASE (23.00; 3m 110yd) (10)
101 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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3.00 HARRY RUSSELL MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY (Handicap chase; 5.40; 2m 110yd) (11)
101 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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3.30 JACK RUSSELL MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (Handicap; 5.10; 3m 110yd) (12)
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102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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4.00 BLACK AND TAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22.70; 2m 110yd) (14)
101 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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4.30 FOX SELLING HURDLE (22.70; 2m) (14)
101 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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5.00 BORDER MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (22.60; 2m) (11)
101 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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5.30 LCL LASER HANDICAP HURDLE (22.30; 2m) (15)
101 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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THUNDERER
2.10 Speaker's House, 2.40 Eastcliffe, 3.10 Shawwell, 3.40 Glenzie, 4.00 Secret Bay, 4.30 Setpura.
Carl Evans: 4.10 Secret Bay.

GOING: FIRM SIS
2.10 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICES CHASE (23.20; 2m 110yd) (8 runners)
101 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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2.40 BUCHANAN ALES NOVICES HURDLE (22.85; 2m 110yd) (12)
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3.40 KEDGHANS MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21.40; 2m) (9)
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SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.00 Chorus Line, 2.30 Dream Ride, 3.00 Pearl Epoca, 3.30 Mister Horatio, 4.00 Forbidden Waters, 4.30 Selman, 5.00 Jendoret.
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings:
3.00 PEARL EPOCA
Carl Evans: 3.30 Mister Horatio.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
TIDE: JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 NORFOLK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (22.90; 2m) (11 runners)
101 UPRIS CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
102 3521 STORMELL 16 (16.0) M Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
103 3541 CHORUS LINE 20 (20.0) P Beaman 5-11-12 B Graham (5) 50
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2.30 DAILY NOVICES CHASE (23.00; 3m 110yd) (10)
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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Associated British Foods, Schroder Ventures International Investment Trust, Wardle Stores.

Finals: Arian, Caldwell Investments, Dinkie Heel, Doeflex, Britannia Group.

Economic statistics: UK producer prices (March), auction of short-term US Treasury bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Murray VCT.

Finals: Boozey & Hawkes, N Brown Group, Capita Group, Commercial Union, Dean Corporation, James Finlay, Hemingway Properties, S Jerome & Sons Holdings, Moorfield Estates.

Economic statistics: British Retail Consortium retail sales monitor (March).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Aberforth Split Level Trust.

Finals: Blockleys, Bodycote International, Cobham, JJB Sports.

Economic statistics: UK public sector borrowing requirement (March), UK unemployment (March), UK average earnings/unit wage costs (February), US March housing starts, US March industrial production and capacity utilisation.

THURSDAY

Interims: Action Computer, Albert Fisher Group, Chester International, Garmore British Income & Growth Trust (Q1), Murray Split Capital Trust.

Finals: BATM Advanced Communications, Havelock Europa, Henry Boot, House of Fraser, Laser-Scan Holdings, Linden.

Economic statistics: UK retail price index (March), Bundesbank council meeting, US weekly jobless claims, US February trade deficit.

FRIDAY

Interims: None scheduled.

Finals: None scheduled.

Economic statistics: UK British Bankers Association monthly figures (March), UK Building Societies Association monthly figures (March), UK motor vehicle production (March), UK provisional M4 (March).

COMPANIES

CLARE STEWART

ABF move sparks bid speculation

ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS: The half-year results, now due today, have been brought forward rather earlier than usual, sparking speculation that ABF is set to make a major announcement.

Much of the attention on ABF and its chairman, Garry Weston, will be focused on the group's plans for acquisitions. With around £1.5 billion to spend, enhanced by the £640 million sale of its Irish retail business to Tesco, any hints of acquisition interest will be pounced on.

ABF, the Twinnings Tea to Silver Spoon sugar group, has been linked to a number of targets, including Tate & Lyle, the sugar manufacturer. Some analysts believe that a bid for TSB would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, because ABF already owns British Sugar.

Carl Short, an analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, thinks that ABF may be more interested in acquisitions to build its US business. On trading he expects the strong pound to have had some impact on British Sugar although this may be offset by lower costs elsewhere. He expects pre-tax profits to increase from £198 million to £208 million with the interim dividend held at 4.25p to allow for a higher payout at the year end. The broker Merrill Lynch is looking for pre-tax profits of £202 million, with a full-year result of £445 million.

N BROWN: The fashion retailer headed by Sir David Alliance is reporting year-end results tomorrow. The group, based in Manchester, was formerly known as a purveyor of comfortable clothes in larger sizes. More recently it has been associated with deals that never were, having linked up with Iceland in a bid for Littlewoods, while last month it pulled out of talks with Sears to acquire Freemans, its mail order arm.

Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits of between £33 million and £38 million, up from £31.2 million, with a dividend of 6.8p a share. House broker BZW has pencilled in £36.5 million pre-tax. Aside from trading news, and



Garry Weston, chairman of ABF, which has been linked to several acquisition targets

indications of how efforts to win more younger customers are paying off, interest will focus on N Brown's options and likely direction in its moves to expand its share of the mail-order market.

LUCASVARITY: The first full-year figures since last year's merger of Britain's Lucas Industries and Varity Corp of America are due tomorrow. Pre-tax profits of around £280 million are forecast for the group, which is comparable to a pro forma figure of £250 million. Trading news is

expected to focus on progress with cost-saving measures, including planned disposals. In addition, the aerospace division should show benefits from increased demand through US automotive markets have weakened. Interest will also centre on the group's policy on dividend payments and share buybacks. A 2.1p dividend for the period has already been signalled.

JJB SPORTS: The sports goods retailer reports year-end figures on Wednesday, with analysts looking for pre-tax profits of

about £19 million before exceptional items. Shares in the group headed by David Whelan, the former Blackburn footballer, have scored striking gains this year helped by good trading news. Analysts will be looking for more information on JJB's opening programme as well as news on sales of replica kit, the demand for which has been a feature of recent trading.

ALBERT FISHER: Interim results from the salads-to-seafood group look likely to deliver a further mixed bag. In February a

trading statement warned of problems in the coddle beds that would hit half-year figures.

Analysts at NatWest are forecasting a 4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £19.5 million for the six months to the end of February, with the dividend maintained at 1.85p. The strength of sterling is expected to have had an impact, together with lower operating profits, in several of Albert Fisher's European businesses. Fresh produce has been affected by fluctuations in fruit and vegetable supplies while problems with shellfish supplies, including the difficulties in the coddle market, will impact on profits.

The picture is brighter in North America, where strong market conditions should be reflected in improved operating profits.

HOUSE OF FRASER: The City will be looking closely at year-end figures from the department store group on Thursday for signs that recent changes are producing results.

Earlier this year the struggling retailer announced the loss of 1,000 jobs and the closure of three stores as part of its restructuring. Its January trading statement said that there would be a one-off charge of between £12 million and £15 million to cover the cost of staff cuts and a further charge of up to £9 million relating to store closures. In total, provisions could come in as high as £49 million.

The brokers NatWest Securities are hopeful that there will be good news coming out of the stores, and is expecting a modest improvement in pre-tax profits, up 2 per cent to £14.6 million. An unchanged dividend of 5.5p per share is forecast.

The City generally takes a dim view of the company's prospects but NatWest says that current valuations ignore the underlying value of the stores. In addition, says NatWest, the retail pendulum is swinging back in favour of department stores.

The shares, which have been on a roller-coaster ride over the past 12 months, still have some way to go to get back to its 180p flotation price of three years ago.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Healthy for the Tories

If Tories are to make the economy a bigger election campaign issue, a clutch of healthy UK indicators this week will give them their opportunity. The first good news should come on inflation with Monday's producer price indices. Raw material prices have been falling, thanks partly to sterling. The median of Standard & Poor's MMS survey of forecasts suggests a 0.3 per cent rise in March, due to non-oil commodity prices, but this would leave the input price index down 6.5 per cent year-on-year. Output prices are thought to have risen 0.2 per cent in March, leaving 12-month factory gate inflation at only 1.3 per cent.

Seasonal price increases should not spoil Thursday's March retail price data either. Headline RPI is due to be up 0.4 per cent, leaving 12-month inflation at 2.7 per cent. Most expect growth of RPIX, which excludes housing, to be down a notch from 2.9 per cent a month ago, though MMS is doubtful. NatWest Securities expects RPIY, the measure Bank of England policy focuses on, to remain on target at 2.5 per cent.

Unemployment should show another fall, though City forecasts, rarely reliable in this area, range from 25,000-70,000. On the median 40,000, the rate should drop to 6.4 per cent. That is helping government finances, as will sales of £600 million housing loans. If the March public sector borrowing requirement comes in at the MMS median forecast of £9 billion, the total for the 1996-97 financial year could undershoot the Treasury's latest £26.3 billion forecast by nearly £3 billion.

Critical attention will focus on average earnings growth, which has accelerated from 4 to 5 per cent since October. The City would view another rise in February as a danger signal. On Friday, annual growth of M4, the wider measure of money supply, will sit above its 3.9 per cent monitoring range, but may be trimmed from 11.3 to 10.8 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

The Sunday Times: Buy Amersham International, Silvermines, Grand Metropolitan, United Industries, ML Laboratories, Cranwick, Babcock, BWT. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Guinness, Nichols Vint, Olives Property, Colefax & Fowler, Cobham, Jarvis. The Observer: Buy Smiths Industries, Albert Fisher, Sell Allied Domecq, The Mail on Sunday, Buy Blue Circle Industries, Era, Independent on Sunday, Buy Williams Holdings, FKL, BT, Sell Prudential, Hold British Steel.

BT shareholders to vote on MCI merger

SHAREHOLDERS of BT will tomorrow vote on the company's proposed £13 billion merger with MCI Communications, the American long-distance telecoms carrier (Martin Barrow writes).

The BT board is also asking shareholders for authority to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares, a stake that has a current stock market value of £2.7 billion.

The extraordinary meeting

will take place at Wembley Conference Centre. Earlier this month about 77 per cent of MCI's shareholders voted for the merger, which will create a transatlantic telecoms giant to be known as Concert.

Institutional investors are also expected to approve the merger. BT shares have risen from 360p to 441p in anticipation of the benefits that are likely to arise from the transaction.

Topping up pensions can backfire on savers

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

PAYING pension top-up contributions into a poorly performing scheme could cost savers more than £3,250 over a ten-year period, an independent survey has found. Over three years, you may not even get your money back.

Additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) are used by people with an existing pension scheme to build up their retirement fund, either to boost their final pension or to allow them to retire early.

But Bacon & Woodrow, the actuaries, discovered that choosing the wrong AVCs can severely reduce the final fund. Its investigation into with-profits contracts found that over the past decade the best

performer, Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS), achieved a return of 15.4 per cent a year. The weakest performer, London Life, returned 9.9 per cent a year. This represents a difference of more than £3,250 in the funds accumulated under the two contracts, based on contributions of £50 a month.

In the unit-linked sector, Equitable Life was the most competitive over the last three years, closely followed by Eagle Star and Scottish Equitable.

Commercial Union, however, produced a negative return over this period: that means contributors would receive less than they had paid

in. Over five years Fidelity was the top performer.

Commercial Union admitted the product had returned "a very poor performance" but said this was "due to the changing structure rather than the investment performance".

A spokesman said: "The product mentioned was an individual contract sold more than five years ago to fewer than 100 people and has now been phased out in favour of a new product with lower charges. I admit it has turned in a disappointing performance, but we cannot advise policyholders what to do with it as it may have been sold to them through independent financial advisers."

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.16	2.00	2.08
Austria Sch	30.23	19.03	11.81
Belgium Fr	60.42	55.92	280.50
Canada \$	0.374	2.204	7.45
Cyprus Cyp	0.684	0.684	245.50
Denmark Kr	11.15	10.35	13.24
Finland Mk	8.15	8.15	2.51
France Fr	8.82	9.10	12.24
Germany Dm	2.54	2.72	2.51
Greece Dr	453	427	2150.4
Hong Kong \$	13.30	12.20	1.720
India Ru	127	107	1.990
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02	
Israel Shk	5.79	5.13	
Italy Lit	2050	2700	
Japan Yen	216.10	202.10	
Netherlands Gld	0.859	0.801	
Norway Kr	3.12	3.042	
New Zealand \$	2.48	2.28	
Portugal Esc	11.81	11.01	
Spain Ptas	200.50	270.50	
Sweden Kr	7.45	7.02	
Switzerland Fr	245.50	225.50	
Taiwan Nts	13.24	12.24	
Turkey Lira	2.51	2.25	
USA \$	2150.4	2050.4	

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6255 (-0.0147)
German mark
2.8019 (+0.0529)
Exchange index
99.7 (+1.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2820.0 (+2.6)
FTSE 100
4270.7 (+34.1)
New York Dow Jones
6391.69 (-134.38)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
17846.98 (-13.61)

Answers from page 38

GLEBOUS

(b) Full of clouds, of the earth earthy. From the Latin *gleba* a clod or sod or turf. *Gleba*, full of clods and sods, is the normal condition of the office human resources amenities area during the lunch break.

TORPILLAGE

(c) Electric shock therapy. "I am sorry to see you so down in the dumps, my dear. Why not try some alternative medicine, to see if that helps? A little aromatherapy, perhaps, some iridology, a course of torpillage."

DIRIGIBLE

(d) Everyone recognises this word as meaning an airship. But it is originally an adjective meaning "capable of being directed, steerable". Thus an airship is actually a dirigible balloon. When the office party is breaking up, and everyone is a bit worried about Therese, who is upright but glassy-eyed, one asks: "Is she still dirigible?"

PARISOLOGY

(a) The deliberate pursuit of ambiguity in one's use of language. A vice in journalism, though a virtue in diplomacy. Cf. *charientism*, an elegantly veiled insult, made possible by judicious use of many of the words in Word Watching.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxg8+ Bxg8 (1 ... Rxg8 2 Bxh6+ Kh8 3 Nf7 mate) 2 Bxh6+ Kh8 3 Bxh7 4 Ng6 checkmate

Annual figures 1996

peak year 1996: record increases of
net profit +25% to U.S.\$ 1,974 million
profit per share +19% to U.S.\$ 2.71
shareholders' equity +44% to U.S.\$19,600 million

(in millions of dollars, except for amounts per share)	1996	1995	% change
Results before taxation: *)			
- insurance operations	1,485	1,252	18.6
- banking operations	1,268	1,040	21.7
Net profit	1,974	1,574	25.4
Profit per ordinary share	2.71	2.28	18.8
Dividend per ordinary share	1.19	0.99	20.5
Total assets **)	277,943	227,607	22.1
Shareholders' equity **)	19,600	13,657	43.5

*) Results: U.S.\$ 1.00 = NLG 1.68 (average exchange rate)
**) Assets and shareholders' equity: U.S.\$ 1.00 = NLG 1.74 (exchange rate on 31 December 1996)

- 28. Excellent increases of net profit (25.4%), profit per share (18.8%), dividend (20.5%) and shareholders' equity (43.5%).
- 29. Almost all banking, insurance and investment activities report considerably improved results, thanks to an important worldwide increase of total income.
- 30. Allocation of U.S.\$315 million before taxation to provisions for future expenses, of which U.S.\$166 million for the insurance operations and U.S.\$149 million for the banking operations.
- 31. Size of the banking provision for general contingencies at the end of 1996 was U.S.\$1,465 million; U.S.\$718 million is added to shareholders' equity and U.S.\$747 million to the Fund for general banking risks.

Full of confidence for 1997, but despite a good start still too early to make a profit forecast.

ING GROUP

Internet: <http://www.inggroup.com>

The annual report appears on 19 April 1997 and can be obtained at the following address:
ING Group, P.O. Box 810, 1000 AV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Telephone: (+31) 20 541 54 71, fax: (+31) 20 541 54 51.

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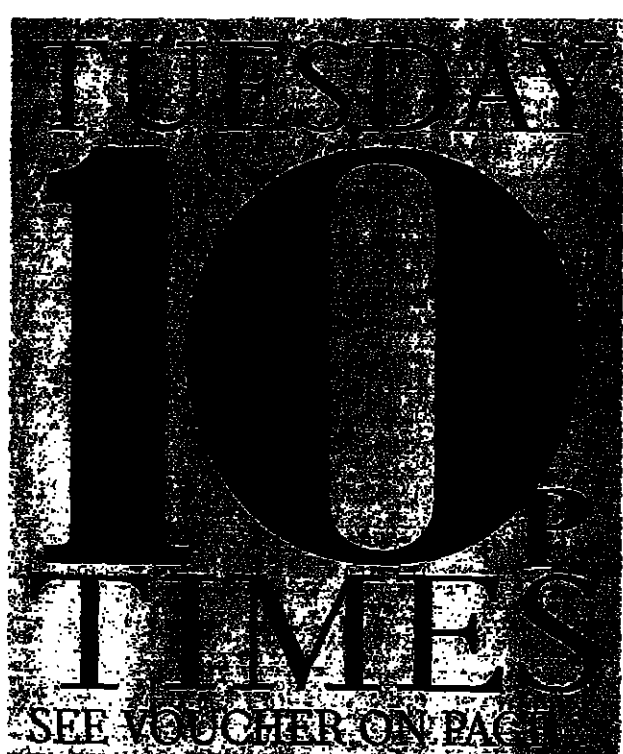
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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT



OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

Inflation fears overdone — again

This is inflation week. The latest RPI figures are published on Thursday while the US equivalents come out tomorrow. They appear while we are in the middle of one of our periodic scares that inflation is about to surge again. Yet it is currently about as low as most of us in Britain can remember. So why the panic?

First, because it seems that the rate has already been picking up. The latest headline figure of 2.7 per cent is up from just over 2 per cent recorded almost a year ago, and just over 1 per cent seen in 1993.

But if you strip out the usual distorting factors — mortgage interest rates, indirect taxes and petrol — nearly all of the supposed recent acceleration disappears. Indeed, underlying inflation last year was the same as in 1993 — just below 3 per cent.

Yet as inflation has remained low, so ambitions have built up for still lower rates. When Britain left the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) in September 1992, keeping inflation in the range of 1

to 4 per cent seemed an extremely ambitious target. Now this is widely regarded as much too lax — hence the current target of 2½ per cent or less.

So profound has been the change in the policy climate that central bankers everywhere, and not merely in the German hard core, now talk openly about the merits of price stability — and without blushing.

Moreover, an international competition has developed to achieve lower inflation than other countries, nearly all of whom are consumed by precisely the same ambition. So each has to pedal faster to stay in the same place. And there are some extremely low inflation figures elsewhere — 1½ per cent in Germany, 1 per cent in France, ½ per cent in Japan, and minus ½ per cent in Sweden. Even Italy is now below 2½ per cent.

So the UK's low inflation looks

high internationally. Yet it has been achieved in spite of a strong recovery accompanied by sharp falls in unemployment, and after a collapse of the exchange rate in 1992. In these circumstances, you would expect it to be higher. Interestingly, in the US, which has also enjoyed good growth and low unemployment, the latest core inflation rate was similar to Britain's — 2½ per cent.

The real reason for the present inflation scare is not current experience but forecasts and fears of higher inflation ahead. The grounds for worry are clear enough. The economy appears to be growing too strongly, with consumer spending likely to expand by 4 per cent or more.

For many observers this is taken as conclusive. It is as though the last few years of low inflation had been obvious all along — just as the coming upsurge is supposedly



ROGER BOOTLE

obvious now. The reality is quite different. Ever since we left the ERM there have been arguments for inflation to rise — some of them good ones. In 1993, it was the sharp fall of sterling. In 1994, it was the worldwide rise in commodity prices, coupled with strong growth in the US. Since then we have had scares over the gold price and the oil price. Now it is the strong

growth of domestic spending. Yet the extraordinary strength of sterling, now coupled with sharply lower oil prices, will offset this by putting intense downward pressure on prices. It is easy to underestimate the significance of the pound's rise because its sheer speed allows observers to become accustomed to the new level before the effects are yet evident in the economy.

Over the past year, the average value of the pound has risen by nearly 20 per cent, with most of that increase coming since August.

Remarkably, some economists and businessmen continue to pooch-pooch its significance. If you asked them, however, about the effect of a 20 per cent fall in foreign prices, they would immediately lay lyrical about the beneficial impact on our price level but also about the terrible blow to our competitiveness. Yet this comes to

much the same thing. And if 20 per cent price changes do not matter you might as well throw away the whole of economics.

Even so, the supposed importance of the exchange rate is lodged in the folk memory. At the end of 1987, sterling stood some 11 per cent higher than it had done a year earlier. And it rose another 5 per cent the following year. Yet this appreciation was powerless to stop the inflationary "blip" that we now know as the Lawson boom.

But the strength of the pound in 1987 merely offset its weakness the previous year. By contrast, the recent surge of the pound has very nearly returned it to the levels ruling five years ago, before the ERM fiasco.

Similarly, it is easy to misread the 1992/93 experience when inflation fell in spite of a much lower pound, causing some to conclude that the level of sterling had no

relevance for inflation. But devaluation did raise the inflation rate relative to what it would otherwise have been. Indeed, without it, inflation in 1993 might well have been negative.

Inflation week begins with current evidence of just how important the exchange rate is — today's publication of the latest producer prices. The last set showed the prices of goods leaving factories hardly rising at all, while input costs had fallen by about 0.2 per cent over the year. Not much inflation there. And whatever happens this week, as the year wears on, the remarkable absence of price pressures in the pipeline will drag down the RPI.

Not for the first time, fears about higher inflation are set to be followed by the realisation of just the opposite.

Roger Bootle's book, *The Death of Inflation — Surviving and Thriving in the Zero Era*, will be published in paperback on April 24 at £9.99 by Nicholas Brealey (071 430 0224).

Mirror chairman faces battle over re-election

By JASON NISSE

MIRROR GROUP, the publisher and broadcaster, faces a battle with some institutional investors over the decision by Sir Robert Clark, the group's 73-year-old chairman, to continue long past retirement age.

Sir Robert, who first joined the board when the company was controlled by Robert Maxwell, will today confirm in his chairman's statement in the Mirror annual report that he is standing for re-election as a director.

The move comes despite public opposition by institutional investors to directors continuing in office beyond their 70th birthday. This year will be the first time he has offered himself for re-election as a director since passing 70.

The Companies Act states: "No person is capable of being appointed as a director of a company... if at the time of his appointment he has attained the age of 70."

However, this clause can be sidestepped by an amendment to a group's articles of association, an amendment which exists at Mirror.

Pirc, the corporate governance lobby group, is to recommend that shareholders vote against Sir Robert at



Age concern: Sir Robert Clark, 73, can expect opposition from institutional investors

the annual shareholder meeting in early May, having brought up the issue of his age ahead of the last two annual meetings.

One leading institutional investor told *The Times* that it is expecting to vote against the re-election of Sir Robert. "If there is a really good reason

given for him staying on we will abstain, otherwise we will oppose re-election."

Another institution said it was likely to oppose, and a third said it was considering opposing. Hermes, the FT and Post Office pension fund, has a policy of opposing directors aged over 70, but said it may

agree to support Sir Robert if there is a commitment to find a new chairman by the next annual meeting.

A Mirror spokesman said Sir Robert is standing for re-election for only one year and that if institutions are unhappy about this it is willing to talk to them about it.

New players join sports sector

By FRASER NELSON

THE burgeoning sports sector of the Alternative Investment Market is set to expand even further with the flotation of Britain's first female-only fitness club and a cashshell backed by Alan Hansen, the football pundit.

Lady In Leisure, which runs clubs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester and Newcastle, is raising £1.7 million through a placing that will value it at £4.6 million.

The company hit the headlines last summer when it turned down a job application from a 61-year-old man

on the ground that his presence might put off women working out in the gym.

Soccer Investments, which owns nothing apart from the £10 million it plans to raise, is joining AIM on April 27. It is the brainchild of Apax, the venture capitalist that organised Sheffield United's entry to the market, and plans to lure a Premiership football club into a reverse takeover.

Mr Hansen, who also advises Singer & Friedlander's Football Fund, has been charged with finding a suitable club in which to take a 50.1 per cent stake. Soccer

Investments is rumoured to be in talks with Coventry and has promised to return all the money if it fails to strike a deal within two years.

Sport stocks have so far received a mixed reception in AIM. West Bromwich Albion, Charlton Athletic and Birmingham City have seen some £12.1 million wiped off their market value in the past four months.

Shares of Celtic have surged from £65 to £135 since it floated and Fitness First, the only other gym club, has almost doubled its market value to £48 million.



Hansen: looking for club

1997		Low		Mkt cap (millions)		Price		Why		Yld		P/E		1997		High		Mkt cap (millions)		Price		Why		Yld		P/E	
135	100	11.20	AFA Systems	112	+10	5.2	169	135	91	6.53	Jet Group	4	-3	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121
135	146	21.30	AMCO Corp	149	+10	5.2	169	135	91	6.53	Jet Group	4	-3	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121
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EDS and Cap in line for Steel contract

By ERIC REGULY

ELECTRONIC Data Services and Cap Gemini, two of the largest information technology companies in the world, are back in the running for British Steel's £350 million computing contracts now that IBM's bid has been rejected.

British Steel told IBM last week that its information technology outsourcing proposals could not satisfy its commercial requirements. No details were given. IBM was told in November that it was the preferred bidder and the contract was to have started two months ago.

Electronic Data Services (EDS) and Cap Gemini pitched for the prestigious British Steel contract, which would have seen the winner take over the bulk of its computer operations, including the technical and customer support divisions and applications systems development.

Cap Gemini, based in France and 24 per cent owned by Daimler Benz of Germany, has one competitive advantage. Through the acquisition of British Steel's Central Management Systems division, it is already providing about one third of the group's information technology outsourcing needs.

Neither EDS nor Cap Gemini has officially received invitations to submit new bids. But both companies are working on the assumption that they will be called in.

An EDS victory would underline the company's near-dominance of the fast growing outsourcing market. EDS, founded by Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire and 1992 presidential candidate, was spun off from General Motors last year and has made international expansion a priority.

Scottish Hydro-Electric has contracted out its customer IT systems to Severn Trent, the water utility, in the first link-up of its kind. Under the terms of the five-year deal announced today, Severn Trent's systems division will manage all of Hydro-Electric's customer information services.



BECK & POLLITZER, the engineering services group that won a Queen's Award for export achievement last year, is considering a flotation following its third set of strong results (Chris Ayres writes).

Long-serving employee Vince Grace is pictured at work for the company, which has appointed NatWest Markets as its adviser. It will this week announce a 21 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from

£1.58 million to £2 million for the year to December 31. Michael Stone, managing director, said: "The company has seen constant improvements and has been growing in a controlled, steady manner."

LucasVarity takes flak over dividend change

By PAUL DURMAN

LUCASVARITY, the car components group formed by a £3.2 billion merger last year, has come under fire for the clumsy debate it has held over its controversial new dividend policy.

The company is expected to announce on Wednesday that it intends to cut future dividend payments and to make up the difference with a rolling programme of share buybacks.

LucasVarity believes the move will make better use of tax reliefs and prevent it from adding to its advance corporation tax (ACT) problem.

The company has held private talks with its largest shareholders about its plans. However, leaks to the press have suggested that the company has had to abandon a move away from dividend

payments altogether and have highlighted the divisions between the group's British and American shareholders.

Graham Wood, head of UK equities at Standard Life, one of Britain's biggest institutional investors, said: "They've made a complete pig's breakfast of getting their message over. They did not realise the difference between the US institutional market and the British institutional market."

Managers from Varity have taken the top jobs in the new group, led by Victor Rice, the chief executive. US investors find share buybacks more tax efficient than dividends. However, UK pension funds are better off receiving dividends, because their untaxed status allows them to reclaim the 25 per cent

tax credit. One leading UK pension fund manager said: "Most of our clients want dividends paid. If the company's plan is not ideal from our point of view, we are in favour of people paying dividends."

LucasVarity faces a dilemma because its UK profits are insufficient to cover the level of dividends previously paid by Lucas Industries. This means it is unable to offset all its ACT payments against mainstream corporation tax.

On the other hand, a share buyback could be made without giving the company's UK shareholders a capital gains tax liability. This is because the nominal value of LucasVarity's shares was, as part of last year's merger, reset at 23p, above the current market price of 19½p.

LucasVarity is expected to reduce its dividend to a level dictated by its UK profits.

Paul Bossonnet, the LucasVarity director who resigned last week, is also on the board of Mercury Asset Management, one of the UK's biggest pension fund managers.

Through a spokesman, Mr Bossonnet said that his resignation had nothing to do with operations at Lucas and nothing to do with Mercury Asset Management. It was for purely personal reasons.

John Lawson, motors analyst at Salomon Brothers, has suggested that LucasVarity will seek to sell VarityPerkins, its diesel engine business, and Lucas Aerospace, which makes engine controls. Together, they might fetch £1.3 billion.

Societies to vote on ending mutuality

By CAROLINE MERRELL

MEMBERS of two of the UK's top ten building societies will meet this week to decide the future of the societies.

The Bristol & West and Northern Rock building societies are seeking approval to follow in the footsteps of the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester by abandoning mutual status.

Bristol & West is being taken over by Bank of Ireland in a £600 million deal, while the £1 billion Northern Rock is seeking a flotation on the stock market.

If the Northern Rock deal goes ahead, each of its 900,000 qualifying members will receive an equal distribution of 500 free shares, which could be worth as much as £1,400.

Bristol & West savers of more than two years standing will get a cash payment worth, on average, £1,100, while other members, who did not have £100 in the society at the right dates will get £250, or 250 preference shares worth £1 each.

The Northern Rock flotation comes faced with what commentators deem to be a "poison pill", whereby 5 per cent of its profits will go towards the establishment of a foundation to help projects in the North West. This set-up could put off a purchaser, although the society will, in any case, enjoy five years of protection from takeover.

Northern Rock shares are expected to trade between 260p and 285p.

For the conversions to go ahead 75 per cent of savers must vote in favour.

National Savings tops target

By CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONAL SAVINGS contributed £4.7 billion to government funding this year, comfortably exceeding its revised £4.5 billion target.

The target figure was substantially increased in last November's Budget from £3 billion. The two most popular National Savings products for the 1996-97 tax year proved to be the Pensioners Bond and Premium Bonds. This year £1.7 billion worth of Premium Bonds were sold net, compared with £1.4 billion in the previous year.

National Savings total gross sales exceeded £13.2 billion in spite of competition from other forms of savings. National Savings also experienced heavy maturities of savings certificates and capital bonds.

Despite the good results achieved by National Savings, an inquiry is continuing into accounting discrepancies, which included a £50 million "black hole". The deficit has been cut substantially through the investigation.

Market must be wary of post-election policies

Devaluation and fiscal tightening were inevitable after the last general election, whoever won. There could be a repeat performance this time. Fortunately, nothing on the scale of Black Wednesday and subsequent tax rises is necessary. However, sterling is too strong for the economy's own good and a further rebalancing of policy is inevitable at some stage.

The electorate does not believe that the economy is booming, and there is no reason why the City should either. Pent-up consumer demand, high real incomes and a healthy rebound in the service sector have boosted growth. However, this is nothing on the scale of the late eighties.

Conditions in manufacturing are far from healthy, with investment low and with exporters being hit by a strong pound and the fear of higher interest rates. It may get worse before it gets better for manufacturing, as developments on the Continent keep the pound high. European monetary union will begin on time in 1999, with the convergence criteria interpreted flexibly, risking a soft euro and further capital flight from Germany. Ahead of then, weak growth, low inflation and tight fiscal policies will characterise developments on the Continent.

This is not a typical economic recovery in Germany. Further restructuring is inevitable as the recent rise in exports is not followed by the rebound in investment or consumption that the market expects. Germany will not be the locomotive for European growth, and the Bundesbank may never raise interest rates again before its replacement by the European Central Bank.

In this environment, the pound will remain firm and gilt yields attractive. If economics does not spoil the gilt market's prospects, will politics? The City does not seem to think so, and is indifferent to the election outcome. Traditionally, the market prefers a right-wing government, but Tony Blair has taken economics out of the political debate, endorsing conservative, mainstream macro-economic policies. Change will be micro-economic in nature, centring on regulation.

A landslide would endorse new Labour's policies, allowing Mr Blair to strengthen his hold on the party and to plan for two terms in office. Thus, Gordon Brown could seek to establish his credibility with the financial markets, rather than aiming to please Labour's natural supporters, who want to see increased spending and higher public-sector pay.

However, credibility need not entail an aggressive monetary tightening, for two main reasons. First, inflation will remain low. Healthy growth in productivity will restrain unit costs, in spite of higher wages in the service sector. Retailers will still find it hard to make price rises stick.

Second, a balanced policy points to a tight fiscal stance to reduce the budget deficit and curb domestic demand, alongside an accommodating monetary policy. A Labour government's post-election Budget would commit them to the Tories' tight spending plans and lessen the need for aggressive interest rate hikes. Although Mr Brown will be keen to establish his credibility with an early rate rise, which he can blame on the Tories, he will not be so much to it threatens growth by curbing investment and pushing the pound to frothier levels. After all, Labour is heavily dependent on a "growth dividend" to deliver higher tax revenues. Although Mr Brown will be keen to keep inflation down, the last thing that he needs is to tighten policy too much, forcing a sharp slowdown that would hurt his tax plans. A year-end base rate of 6.5 per cent is more likely than the 7 per cent already discounted.

Excessive regulation and policy tightening are not needed, but more investment in infrastructure, industry and education is required to build on current success. Spending on education has already risen by more than a third in real terms since 1979. Britain is receiving sizeable investment inflows in research, design and development and its economy has benefited from a flexible labour market. Yields are at attractive levels, but only if post-election policy is sensible, consistent and credible. The City may be indifferent as to who wins, but the gilt market should be wary. Actions speak louder than words. Once misplaced inflation fears ease and official interest rates peak, gilt yields will fall.

GERARD LYONS
DKB International

Lee & Allen aims to capitalise on predicted rise in corruption

Hong Kong mission for fraudbuster

By JON ASHWORTH

JOHN WOOD, the first director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), is going fraud-busting in Hong Kong, amid predictions of a sharp rise in corruption after the hand-over to China.

Mr Wood has been made a consultant to Lee & Allen, the forensic accountant formed three years ago as a break-away from Price Waterhouse. The London firm is rapidly building a bridge-head in Hong Kong, which has few specialist fraud investigators.

Mr Wood, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in Hong Kong from 1990-94, said: "It is extremely difficult to predict, but I think the general view is that corruption will increase because of the influence of China. I think that it's almost inevitable, with a change of government, that corruption will increase."

As DPP, Mr Wood helped to clean up Hong Kong in the aftermath of the scandal involving Warwick Reid, a top prosecuting lawyer who was convicted of taking kick-backs

from clients. An independent commission targeted corruption in the police, immigration and customs and excise.

David Lee, co-founder of Lee & Allen, said: "The expectation is that there will be an increase in corruption, with Chinese commercial culture influencing the way business is done. It is said that there will be less interest by the authorities in investigating fraud and corruption, but commerce and industry will counteract that."

The big six accounting firms are well-represented in Hong

Kong, but often turn away business because of potential conflicts. Lee & Allen aims to mop up the excess from its base in Central on Hong Kong island.

Mr Lee, who commutes weekly between London and Hong Kong, hopes to capitalise on expert witness work in the territory. He said: "In Hong Kong, you have a society that is highly wealthy, highly innovative, highly commercial. Money has been poured into Hong Kong as the conduit to China. It adds up to a boom town for lawyers, and

litigation and disputes are very much on the increase."

The firm has signed up Gerry McMahon, former head of enforcement at Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission, as a specialist adviser. Mr Lee's partner, Tim Allen, is developing a New York office.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

PROTOTYPE DESIGN LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above named company is in liquidation and that the liquidator, J.J. Selinger, A.C.A. Liquidator, is holding a meeting of the creditors of the company at the National Agricultural Society of England, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EL, on Tuesday 13th May 1997 at 12 noon for the purpose of ascertaining the claims of the creditors and of the liquidator's estimate of the assets of the company.

THE LANCESHIRE ACT 1986
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above named company is in liquidation and that the liquidator, J.J. Selinger, A.C.A. Liquidator, is holding a meeting of the creditors of the company at the National Agricultural Society of England, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EL, on Tuesday 13th May 1997 at 12 noon for the purpose of ascertaining the claims of the creditors and of the liquidator's estimate of the assets of the company.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above named company is in liquidation and that the liquidator, J.J. Selinger, A.C.A. Liquidator, is holding a meeting of the creditors of the company at the National Agricultural Society of England, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EL, on Tuesday 13th May 1997 at 12 noon for the purpose of ascertaining the claims of the creditors and of the liquidator's estimate of the assets of the company.

ARROW TEXTILES LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above named company is in liquidation and that the liquidator, J.J. Selinger, A.C.A. Liquidator, is holding a meeting of the creditors of the company at the National Agricultural Society of England, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EL, on Tuesday 13th May 1997 at 12 noon for the purpose of ascertaining the claims of the creditors and of the liquidator's estimate of the assets of the company.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO CLAIM
(In Liquidation)
Principal Trading Address: 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EL

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pursuant to the above named company is in liquidation and that the liquidator, J.J. Selinger, A.C.A. Liquidator, is holding a meeting of the creditors of the company at the National Agricultural Society of England, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EL, on Tuesday 13th May 1997 at 12 noon for the purpose of ascertaining the claims of the creditors and of the liquidator's estimate of the assets of the company.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NATIONAL POWER PLC
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT A GENERATION PLANT AT ESSO REFINERY, FAWLEY, HAMPSHIRE

Notice is hereby given that National Power PLC ("the Company") has applied under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the Act") for the consent of the Secretary of State to construct and operate a generating station at ESO Refinery, Fawley, and for a diversion under section 80(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that planning permission for the development be granted.

The new station is to be known as ESO Refinery plant and would have a capacity of approximately 130 megawatts (MW). A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement, explaining the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection during normal office hours at the following addresses:

The Jubilee Hall, New Forest District Council, The Square, Fawley, Hampshire

The Jubilee Hall, New Forest District Council, The Square, Fawley, Hampshire

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The Queen's Award for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement 1997



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Tel: 0171 782 7936

THE TIMES

Source: NRS Sept - Feb '97, BMRC 1995

Miners attack gold tax

AUSTRALIA'S gold mining industry has pledged to fight a proposed gold tax in Western Australia (WA), claiming the levy could deter investment by local and foreign companies (Rachel Bridge writes).

The Western Australian Government intends to tax all gold production from the beginning of 1998. However, the

Association of Mining and Exploration Companies said investment in the industry could fall by A\$200 million (about £100 million). Western Australia last year produced gold worth some A\$3.1 billion.

UK companies with interests in Western Australia's gold industry include RTZ-CRA and Hanson.

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Torture for the talentless

How Britain's business voters may turn out

Infuriating woman; I hope she comes back

Doctor Sam Ryan had been asking for it, really she had. Every Friday night another episode of *Silent Witness* (BBC1) would come along and every Friday night Cambridge's finest female pathologist would insist, absolutely insist, on being right. And just as important, she would insist on everybody else being wrong.

But on Friday night, as the series came to a close with an unpleasantly convincing story of random teenage violence, she went too far. As Ryan (Amanda Burton) went through the old "I've got vital information"/"you've got to interview them again" routine, Superintendent Ross finally snapped. All series long, he'd worked hard to inject a little romance into her dull, colour-supplement life and what was his reward? Yet another of those challenging stunts, signalling (once again) the smug certainty of her own infallibility. At best,

they make me want to pinch her, at worst to switch over for the repeats of *Fraser* on Channel 4. This one made Ross (Mick Ford) very cross indeed.

"I can't let this investigation be screwed up because you have decided to become an amateur detective," he shouted. Ryan pursed her lips as only Burton and a select band of lip-pursing actresses can. Result? Ross got crossed still and flounced off to make a complaint about his girlfriend to the assistant chief constable. He might have done better to tell her how silly she looks in one of those white paper suits, for all the good it did. Underdressed and eventually suspended, Ryan blundered off to contaminate some more evidence, breach a few more rules about interviewing juveniles and above all... to be infuriatingly and inevitably right.

Friday wasn't the first time Ross and I have had this problem with

her and, perversely, I hope it is not the last. For whatever the shortcomings of its central character, *Silent Witness* remains extremely good television. Scripts and direction are towards the top end of the scale and the introduction of Ford into the east was cleverly handled. Burton's implacable, unflappable and utterly professional Ryan needed humanising and Ford's enjoyable performance as policeman and former boyfriend was just the job.

Even by *Silent Witness* standards, Peter Lloyd's script was an impressively complex affair, packed full of well-worked paradoxes (does the theory fit the facts or can the facts fit the theory?) and ghastrally echoes from ghostly real life. By contrast, the script for *The Chest* (ITV, Saturday) was, well, how many pages can there have been, for a start? Four, possibly five?

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

This was an old-fashioned style of comedy that we don't see very much of these days (and by large with good reason). But of its type (a lot of visual clowning, the playing of *Bring Me Sunshine* acknowledging its comic antecedents) it wasn't too bad - although why it went out after 9 o'clock on Saturday evening, goodness knows. One joke about "farty-breath" and the presence of Neil

Morrissey, did not *Pirates Behaving Badly* make.

What this was, was a familiar variation of a familiar story: find treasure map, lose treasure map, find it again. Deep breath. Find treasure, lose treasure, find treasure again, lose treasure again. Told you you'd heard it before.

All three of its stars have had very recent television outings - Morrissey in *The Vanishing Man*, Gina McKee in *Beyond Fear* and Jim Carter in *The Missing Postman* - which seemed a little unfortunate. But without the hard work that all three turned in, this little tale could have trickled away into nothing at all. Good support came from Richard Huw and from the North Wales town of Conwy, which looked very pretty.

Germaine Greer had been going for less than a minute of *Travels with Pevsner* (BBC2, Saturday) and already my eyes were glazing over. "Sixties... student un-

rest... University of Warwick... social function of architecture." Social function? Suddenly I was wide awake and, once I'd worked out what she was talking about, agreeing with her.

Greer's contention was that a building's beauty is inseparable from its social function. She would rather a public lavatory at Aston Hall be full of Birmingham homosexuals (her tea-time example, not mine) than padlocked and empty. A more accessible example might be her frustration with the National Trust's policy of fossilising buildings. "Now they have to stay in this state forever," she moaned, surveying the outcrops at Charleston Manor; "as unlike themselves as a statue is unlike a real person." She didn't think much of the National Trust's bedding plants, either.

Between recalling how she used to share spotted dick and Chateau

d'Yquem (I must have misheard, mustn't I?) with the Earl of Warwick and taking an easy sideswipe at pebble-dash and double-glazing in the model garden suburb of Bourneville, Greer drew deserved but slightly inconsistent attention to buildings such as the long-closed Curzon Street Goods Station. Where, if she had bumped into a mournful Garrison Keillor, I wouldn't have been a bit surprised.

Closed railway stations are like magnets to writers, which was why Keillor was moping around the terminated terminus of St Paul, Minnesota in the gently absorbing *God Bless America* (ITV) last night. Its closure, he said, was symptomatic of the city's failure "to anticipate the second half of the 20th century." Symptomatic of more personal failure was my surprise, nay astonishment, at discovering that the river separating Minneapolis and St Paul was the Mississippi. Right up there?

6.00am Business Breakfast (33849)

6.35 Learning to Care (2230820) 6.50 Attachment (5373397)

9.05 Election Call Margaret Beckett MP answers viewers' questions (9334443)

10.00 Style Challenge (25917)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (57269)

11.00 News (T) and weather (28408)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (906498)

11.35 Change That (6488172)

12.00 News (T) and weather (4298375)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (5840004)

12.35 Good Living (9671375)

1.00 News (T) and weather (28408)

1.30 Regional News (T) (50218558)

1.45 The Weather Show (39709068)

1.50 Neighbours (T) (22636714)

2.15 Quincey (T) (3741627)

3.00 Through the Keyhole (6191)

3.30 Playdays (T) (6896085) 3.50 The New Yogi Berra Show (T) (6606443) 3.55 Bogder and Badger (T) (8046462) 4.10 Casper (T) (8076375) 4.35 50/50 (T) (7383375) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5059424) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (1435545)

5.35 Neighbours (T) (281795)

6.00 News (T) and weather (801)

6.30 Regional News (T) (153)

7.00 Auntie's TV Favourites Steve Wright scrutinises Jane Whitfield's personal life and Boy George reveals why Lany Grayson is his personal TV hero (T) (8172)

7.30 Here and Now The health risks associated with bad habits: sleepwalkers in trouble with the police; mail-order drugs (337)

8.00 EastEnders Bickering lovebirds Ricky and Bianca continue to squabble while everybody else plots a big send-off for them (T) (7820)

8.30 Panorama: The Leader Interviews David Dimbleby interviews Peadar Kirby, leader of the Scottish National Party (3927)

9.00 News (T) regional news and weather (9153)

10.00 One Foot in the Grave (T) (72578)

10.30 **REPEAT** Ten Pound Poms The stories of some of the Britons who emigrated to Australia 50 years ago, under the Assisted Passage Scheme (35408)

11.20 Film 97 with Barry Norman Barry reviews the all-star Everyone Says I Love You, with Woody Allen, Julia Roberts, Goldie Hawn and Alan Alda, The Saint, in which Leslie Carner's character is played by Val Kilmer, and Metro starring Eddie Murphy, as a tough hostage negotiator. Tom Brook meets Harrison Ford, Brad Pitt and director Alan Pakula on the set of *The Devil's Own* (551199)

11.50 Mrs Merton in Las Vegas with Patrick Duffy and Tony Curtis (T) (553397)

12.20 The Long Riders (1980) with Keith Carradine, Stacy Keach, Dennis Quaid. Members of a notorious outlaw gang flee the forces of justice after an attempted bank robbery goes disastrously wrong. Directed by Walter Hill (160147)

1.55am-2.00 Weather (5245931)

6.00am O.U.: Ways with Words (222808)

6.35 Learning to Care (2230820) 6.50 Attachment (5373397)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (8022998) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (4106153) 7.35 Blue Peter (T) (1411172) 8.05 Bump (T) (3194453) 8.30 Open a Door (T) (7420521) 8.35 Raccoons (T) (9826085) 9.00 TV6 (50627) 9.30 Ici Paris (2111849) 9.45 Watch Out (2108004) 10.00 Teletubbies (90559) 10.30 Go for It (5267356) 10.50 Look and Read (5270820) 11.10 Zip Zag (4527849) 11.30 Goshwriter (T) (4714) 12.00 Teaching Today (82191) 12.30 History File (70638240) 1.25 Landmarks (T) (6406288) 1.55 Storyline (T) (50204356) 2.00 Bump (T) (37138714) 2.05 Open a Door (37138065)

2.10 Flight from Freedom (1943, b/w) Rosalind Russell stars as a pioneering 1930s female aviator whose efforts to succeed in a male-dominated world lead to romance, heartbreak and ultimately international fame. Also With Fred MacMurray and Herbert Marshall. Directed by Lottor Mendes. Includes 3.00 News and weather (296578)

3.55 News (T) (6803356) 4.00 Blackbuckers (6613733) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (8618620) 4.55 Eerie (9782153) 5.30 Today's Day (530)

6.00 The Simpsons (T) (11882)

6.25 Space Patrol (901566)

7.10 Electric Circus Bryan Adams's new video (133424)

7.30 The Set Files Vanessa Collingridge attempts to find out whether genetically engineered foods is really safe (207)

7.58 Video Nation Election Shorts (388001)

8.00 Top Gear Motorsport The first meeting of the new Eurocar season, the gruelling Dakar Rally, and the British rallycross revival (T) (5462)

8.30 The Antiques Show Francine Stock reports on the booming antiques business and Tim Wonnacott visits a family home which has remained virtually untouched for 220 years (T) (1269)

9.00 The Outer Limits A man disappears, only to return ten years later (T) (131462)

9.45 This Life Miles's blatant dislike of homosexuals causes no end of trouble (T) (127795)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (36172)

11.30 Rock Family Trees: The Fleetwood Mac Story (T) (928066)

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